

BR gets signal to electrify if more jobs are shed

By Michael Bailey and David Felton

The Government is not prepared to give an unconditional commitment to railway electrification, Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Transport, told the House of Commons yesterday.

Instead he is inviting British Rail to submit a 10-year programme of schemes for electrification of potentially profitable main line routes, where it is clear that returns could justify investment.

"The approval of each successive electrification project will be conditional on the profitability of the investment in question, and on the achievement of necessary improvement in productivity," Mr Fowler said.

Mr Fowler did not say what financial commitment the Government might make to carrying out such programmes, but said their cost would be taken into account in setting British Rail's external finance limit and investment level for the year in which a scheme came forward. He did allow an extra £53m to cushion the closure of collected and delivered parcels.

BR has already said that without sharply increased investment—and extra £36m a year for electrification and £72m for associated rolling stock, signalling and track—the railways will go into rapid decline by 1983 and 3,000 miles of track will become unusable by 1990.

Mr Fowler's statement was received angrily by Mr Albert Booth, opposition spokesman on transport, who asked why the minister had ignored the job recommendations of his own department and British Rail to make a specific commitment to extensive electrification.

However, Sir Peter Parker, BR chairman, welcomed Mr Fowler's statement as a "new fighting chance for railways". He said: "I have never and never will ask for money for electrification unless we can see that the investment will produce a good return."

While the country went through hard times, Mr Fowler's statement amounted to a "concrete declaration" of faith in rail as a future industry—a 10-year view. "It is a long time since anybody has taken that long a look at our affairs," Sir Peter said.

Although last night it was clear that Sir Peter was optimistic that the minister's statement could be translated into a new programme for electrification, it was unclear whether the Government's plans had won over the rail unions.

Union leaders left a two-hour meeting with Mr Fowler and Sir Peter refusing to comment. It was left to the BR chairman to explain that there was a united purpose to test the programme moving as quickly as possible.

A brief statement after the meeting of the Rail Council, BR's top consultative body, with Mr Fowler, said that the Government's announcement had been

"positive" and that the council was determined to put the plan into action.

Sir Peter conceded that there were "combustible issues" which had to be discussed with the unions such as manning levels, more flexible work procedures, a reduction in overtime working and the introduction of new rosters.

He praised the unions' co-operation in reducing BR's manning levels by 7,500 over the last year and said: "We are all agreed that the parliamentary process needs translating into something more definite, into terms of actual priorities for electrification and a timetable."

Senior BR officials are to meet representatives from the Department of Transport today to begin work on producing a timetable and defining the priorities in the programme.

Earlier in the Commons, Mr Stephen Ross, Liberal MP for the Isle of Wight, had described the announcement as a "desperately disappointing statement" which would lead to more unemployment, the break-up of existing teams of electrification workers, and a higher cost which schemes were eventually carried out.

But Mr Fowler insisted that the Government was committing itself to a programme over 10 years of certain conditions to assure the future of the railway which he "passionately believed in".

The Government's decision, he said, was taken at a time when British Rail's financial position was giving serious cause for concern, with passenger business down £52m on forecast, and freight £27m.

Freight train drivers were travelling on average only 30 miles a day and there was great scope for improved productivity before any investment.

Transport 2000, the environmental pressure group, said afterwards that Mr Fowler's statement was short-sighted and a catastrophe for British Rail.

"Placement schemes for electrification will not achieve the system-wide economies of scale which come from a rolling programme," a spokesman said.

He said that the Government's approach to electrification safeguarded Britain's transport against the energy shortages of the future. Mr Fowler has failed the railways.

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Communists at door of French Cabinet

From Ian Murray
Paris, June 22

The French Socialist Party is poised to dominate French politics for the next five years. So complete was its victory in yesterday's legislative elections that President Mitterrand could well feel strong and confident enough to "allow Communists into his next Government."

With the results of only three of the 491 constituencies still to come from the overseas territories, the Socialist Party and its close allies, the left Radicals (MRG), already have 285 seats and the Communists 44. There are also four independents of the left who will support them.

This compares with 117 seats for the Socialists and their allies and 56 for the Communists in the old Assembly.

The representation of the old governing majority has been almost halved. The neo-Gaullist RPR movement has 83 seats instead of 150, the UDRF has 64 instead of 122 and even the number of right-wing independents has dropped from 12 to eight.

This majority gives the Socialists an absolute mandate to introduce a programme, with or without the help of any of their allies.

What President Mitterrand has to decide is where it will be safer to have the Communists—inside or outside his Government.

Talks about the possibility of Communist Ministers began at the Communist headquarters in Paris this afternoon. The Socialist side was led by M Lionel Jospin, the party's first secretary, and M Georges Marchais, its secretary general.

The Communists' desire to join the Government was made plain within minutes of the first computer predictions of the evening. Their spokesmen were dispatched to every television and radio station to relay the message—and M Marchais said that the Communists were prepared to accept the principle of collective Cabinet responsibility.

In fact Communist leaders were almost tripping over one another in their anxiety to say how closely their view and that of the Socialists coincided. Even on the question of foreign affairs, where President Mitterrand has taken a particularly firm anti-Soviet stand, the Communists indicated there could be an accommodation.

President Mitterrand is under some pressure from within his own party to agree to a coalition with the Communists, particularly from the left-wing Ceres group headed by M Jean-Pierre Chevènement.

They were unhappy that he was not prepared to call on Socialists to stand down in the elections to allow Communists to take the first round to retain their seats.

He is also under pressure from the more right-wing elements to keep out the Communists on the grounds that their presence would scare off investors in France and could even cause trouble with some of the more conservative Arab states with whom France needs good relations.

For his part the President has said that he would not consider Communists as being only fit to work, pay taxes and die for France. Democratically, he believes it is wrong to exclude them but the conditions for entry into Government will be tough.

Resignations from
broadcasting chiefs

Heads have begun to roll in the state radio and television companies (Charles Hargrove writes from Paris).

M Maurice Ulrich, president of the Second Television Channel, a senior diplomat who was head of the private office of the Foreign Minister, and M Roland Faure, Director of Information Relations and former Editor-in-Chief of L'Aurore, both handed in their resignations today.

These come as no surprise. Broadcasting chiefs have been under considerable pressure to resign since the new Socialist Government took over a month ago.

M Georges Filloud, Minister for Communication, said in an interview with Le Monde last week that he had expected the responsible heads of the state-controlled media—"men chosen by the Council of Ministers on the basis of the political loyalty expected of them"—to draw their own conclusions from the Socialist victory—and leave.

Leading article, page 2
New faces, page 8

Mr Michael Foot, the Labour Party leader, said last night that the decision of Mr Wedgwood Benn to contest the deputy leadership contest could widen the gulf between the parliamentary party and the party in the country, and lose Labour the next election.

Mr Foot, interviewed on BBC television's *Panorama* programme, said that the deputy leadership campaign was a distraction.

In the latest of several calls for the party to stop fighting amongst themselves and to concentrate on electing the Conservative executive would have to lay down ground rules covering the length and cost of future campaigns.

"It would be ludicrous for anybody who really wants to throw out this Thatcher Government—and I am sure Tony Benn does—to have an election every year in this kind of form."

Mr Benn was confirmed as the overwhelming choice of Labour constituencies and Mr Denis Healey of MPs in a Gallup poll conducted for *Panorama*. The poll emphasized yet again that the fate of the two main contenders will be decided by the unions, which electoral college.

Officials were interviewed in 247 constituencies and asked whom they thought would win their local party's first choice; 120 (49 per cent) opted for Mr Benn, 37 (15 per cent) for Mr Healey, 12 (5 per cent) for Mr



Three signs of trouble: John McEnroe up to his antics during his match with Tom Gullikson at Wimbledon yesterday. McEnroe won in straight sets.

McEnroe's temper boils over again at sunny Wimbledon

John McEnroe was in trouble again on the first day of Wimbledon yesterday, writes Sydney Friskin. During his match with Tom Gullikson, which he won in straight sets, he abused the umpire and called the referee a four-letter name. He also broke a racket, acquired two penalty points, and will be recommended for a fine by the referee, Fred Hovles.

McEnroe found fault with the umpire, Edward J. J. because he declined to reverse a number of linecalls' decisions with which McEnroe disagreed. During the second

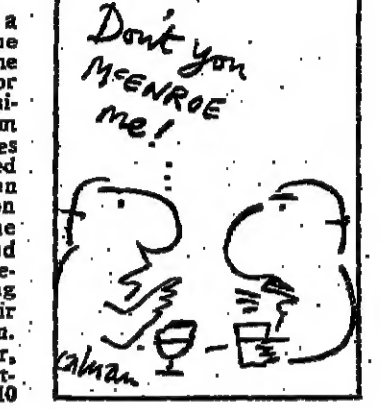
set he deliberately stood on his racket and broke it, and two games later crashed the replacement against a chair. Soon afterwards, he repudiated two women spectators for applauding Gullikson.

Elsewhere, three seeded players were beaten. The biggest surprise was the defeat of Ivan Lendl, of Czechoslovakia (No 4), who lost in five sets to Charlie Fancourt, of Australia. The other fallen seeds were Victor Pecci, of Paraguay, and Yannick Noah, of France. Nastase, of Romania, lost an exciting five-set match to Alexander Mayer.

The best British success was the victory of John Lloyd, who beat Phil Dent, of Australia, in five sets. Lloyd, who is married to the former Chris Evert, said: "My wife has told me my victory means as much to her as winning Wimbledon herself."

Christopher Mottram also reached the second round, beating Robin Drysdale in four sets. The resumption of the Wimbledon drama began on a glorious afternoon with a supporting cast of more than 28,000, a record attendance for the first day. The figure on the corresponding day last year was 26,691.

Few people could recall a start as sunny as this, the temperature rising into the mid-seventies. In the search for lighter clothing many mini-dresses were recovered from the dark recesses of wardrobes and several gentlemen arrived somewhat scantily clad. In an effort to restore decorum on the centre court, during the match between Bjorn Borg and Peter Rennett, an announcement was made requesting those who had taken their shirts off to put them on again. The announcement, however, passed unheeded on the outside courts. Report, page 10



Peckham victim had yearned for Africa

By Craig Seton

Fenton Ogbogbo, the young man stabbed to death by three white youths in south London was desperately unhappy living in England, and was waiting to return to his native Nigeria with his family later this year.

Last night, two days after his 25-year-old son's murder in Peckham, Mr Isiah Ogbogbo, who came to Britain from Nigeria in 1964, said: "I have lost a child because of this racial trouble in this country. Why should somebody kill a quiet, innocent boy like him? I want the whole world to know about my bitterness."

Mr Ogbogbo, aged 47, an electrical engineer who has five other children living in England, said: "Fenton came here four years after me but he always told me he did not like it here. He wanted us to go back to Nigeria but I told him to hold on until I sold our house and then we could go back together as a family."

He intends to have his ashes buried at their original home in Enugu State, Nigeria. Mr Ogbogbo said: "I wish I could afford to take his body back. That is what we would have wanted."

Mr Ogbogbo, who lives with his second wife and his children at Nunhead Grove, in Peckham, told how he last saw Fenton, who was unemployed, on Friday but assumed he had gone to north London to stay with friends where he used to live and work.

Yesterday, after reading about the stabbing of an unidentified black man in a fish bar in the Old Kent Road on Saturday night, he went to the police and discovered that it was his eldest son.

"I still cannot believe it. I am so shocked," Mr Ogbogbo said. "It is these white people, their hatred of black people. That is why my child died. We have a lot of English people living in Nigeria but we do not kill them."

He dismissed police reports that his son might have tried to commit suicide shortly before he was murdered on Saturday.

"He was a very quiet boy but he was not depressed. It is rubbish to say he tried to kill himself. Nor would he have got involved in a fight. He was just not like that."

He described how Fenton had attended local schools in Peckham and then technical college and became keenly interested in electronics. He moved to Willesden in north London to work off a company

assembling computers but lost his job last year.

"I told him to come back to live with us on the returned just before Christmas. He did not have many friends in this area and was always very quiet, just sitting by the window looking out."

"I told him to make friends and to get a girlfriend but he wanted to wait until he was 21. He wanted to go to Nigeria for that," Mr Ogbogbo said.

Last night Mr Ogbogbo was together with his family at their home in mourning. He has two other sons, Benson, aged 17, and Richard, aged 23, and three daughters: Ophelia, aged 16, and two others, aged 10 and 12.

Detective Chief Superintendent Peter Bradbury, who is leading the hunt for the killers, said there had been several other racial attacks by white youths on black people recently, including the stabbing last Thursday of another black man who is recovering in Guy's Hospital.

Scotland Yard said last night that a youth was assisting their inquiries, but no charges are expected immediately. They also ruled out any connection with the Thursday night incident in Peckham on Saturday night when 500 black youths rampaged through a shopping centre, smashing windows and looting shops.

The last hours of Mr Ogbogbo were gradually being pieced together by police yesterday. Scotland Yard said there was evidence that he had tried to commit suicide earlier in the evening on Saturday, having pulled back from jumping from the balcony of a block of flats.

It appeared that he befriended a group of white youths in a public house in the Old Kent Road. Later in the evening they saw him being attacked by another group of white youths who were fought off by Mr Ogbogbo.

Mr Ogbogbo then went to the 'Sehol Fish Bar' in Old Kent Road and was watching a boxing match on a television there when three white youths came in.

Mr Ogbogbo was stabbed repeatedly. The youth ran off and their victim staggered along the pavement before collapsing. He died later at Guy's Hospital.

It took police nearly two days to establish Mr Ogbogbo's identity. An incident room has been set up at Tower Bridge police station and detectives are conducting house-to-house inquiries.

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Walker calls for end of dogmatic stand on Tory monetarist policy

By George Clark, Political Correspondent

Without sending Mr Thatcher an advance copy of his speech, Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture and one of the leading "wets" in the Cabinet, yesterday argued forcefully against the Government's rigid stand on monetarism when he addressed the British-American Chamber of Commerce in New York.

"Our basic political and economic approach should be free of any doctrinaire approach," he said. "It should not be based upon the works and imitations of monetarism."

Mr Walker, who is a member of one of the most influential groups of economists in the City of London, Harvard, Cambridge, Chicago or any other school.

"This is not a decade for western governments to become too fascinated by any economic theory. It is a decade for sane and pragmatic decision-making."

After referring to the changing pattern of world trade, Mr Walker turned to the United Kingdom where he said there were likely to be "domestic tensions of considerable proportions."

The spectre of high unemployment had re-emerged at a time when many of the most cherished, inherited values were under greater pressure than

ever before: the Church, the family, moral standards, human expectations and the basic work ethic were all now subject to question and to change.

"The nature of our city and urban problem is such that high unemployment will bring with it high levels of crime and perhaps young generations developing a total hostile approach to the structure of our society."

In these circumstances, said Mr Walker, the objective of western monetarism should be the provision of some sense of stability in a period when so many forces were working for instability, and "to obtain both a sense of national unity within our own countries, and a wider unity of the Western democracies so as to preserve the freedoms and the compassion for which they have been noted."

Arguing obliquely for more state intervention, Mr Walker called attention to the dilemma of industries in financial difficulty, whether due to the world recession or to intensive (and sometimes subsidized) competition from overseas. Industrial liquidation in a period of economic contraction could mean the destruction of wealth.

"The plan is to keep the people remain—the plant to rust, and

the people to be kept at the expense of those who are able to continue to produce. Suppliers collapse and customers go elsewhere."

It is for this reason, that in such economies as Japan and Germany—both advocates of free enterprise—the industrial strategy is carefully planned and the major liquidation, be it Volkswagen or a major Japanese shipbuilder, is either prevented or organized."

Quoting with approval a speech by the late General de Gaulle, in which he referred to the need to give everyone a direct share in the proceeds of the concern for which he or she works, Mr Walker said: "In the same way as we must pursue policies that do not create a divisive society between the employed and the unemployed, we must also pursue policies that achieve the maximum of unity of purpose of those engaged in commerce and industry."

At no point in his speech, in the text circulated in advance, does Mr Walker have a word of praise for Mrs Thatcher or the achievements of the Government of which he is a member.

It was reported in Whitehall that Mrs Thatcher would not. Continued on back page, col 2

Passport to Europe approved

From Michael Heinsby
Luxembourg, June 22

After nearly a decade of wrangling, EEC foreign ministers agreed here today to introduce a lilac-coloured Community passport by January 1, 1985, at the latest.

The new passport will replace existing national documents but will not diminish the control of governments over immigration, or make it any easier to travel from one EEC country to another.

Britain sought and was granted permission to introduce the passport after January 1, 1985, in the event that the revision of its nationality laws, which could affect the contents of the passport, was not completed by then.

Britain also wants to bring in the new passport at the same time as a machine-readable plastic card which will eventually be inserted into the document.

Of the 169 who declared themselves, Mr Benn therefore had 71 per cent of the vote, Mr Healey 22 per cent, and Mr Silkin 7 per cent.

Of the 160 MPs asked for whom they would be voting, 63 (39.4 per cent) declared for Mr Healey, 23 (14.4 per cent) for Mr Benn, the same for Mr Silkin, and 51 (31.8 per cent) were either undecided or refused to give their preference.

Of the total of 109 who declared themselves, therefore, 58 per cent would vote for Mr Healey, 21 per cent for Mr Benn, and the same for Mr Silkin.

Healey at TGWU, Page 2

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Mark Chapman admits he killed John Lennon

Mr Mark Chapman changed his mind and pleaded guilty to murdering John Lennon, the former Beatle, in New York last year. He told his lawyer that God had told him to switch

from his original plea of not guilty by reason of insanity. A trial will not now be required and the judge adjourned the case for sentencing in August. Page 8

Scottish legal system in crisis

The Civil Service unions' industrial action has virtually paralysed the Scottish legal system, the Government and the unions have been told by the heads of the legal profession in Scotland. A statement, the lawyers say, the situation is intolerable in a civilized community. Page 2

Thursday may be voted cuts day

Plans have been made for Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Defence, to announce the results of his defence review in Parliament on Thursday, after a Cabinet meeting to endorse his proposals. Page 3

Polish assurance

Polish leadership used the 25th anniversary of the Russian attack on the Soviet Union to reaffirm Poland's allegiance to Moscow and to say they were surmounting the country's crisis. Page 8

Spanish King badly cut

King Juan Carlos of Spain, who was badly cut after falling through a glass door, has left hospital after an overnight stay. He had slipped by his swimming pool. With his left arm in a sling, the King described his accident as "nothing". Page 9

£57m lifeline for Belfast yard

Harland and Wolff, the Belfast shipbuilding and engineering group, is to receive almost £57m of Government aid in cash and guarantees. The move follows a similar provision made last year to help the troubled yard. Page 17

Poison plot trial

A Libyan in Britain was accused of trying to poison a Libyan family who refused to go back, by lacing peanuts with a poison from which two children almost died. Page 4

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Whitelaw ready to erase defect in IRA poll Bill

By Hugh Noyes, Parliamentary Correspondent, Westminster

Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, appeared to be moving swiftly last night to reassess Conservative and Labour MPs' appraisal of the discovery of a serious defect in the Representation of the People Bill which would allow an IRA prisoner in the Irish Republic to stand for election to Westminster.

The Bill, which was having its second reading in the Commons last night, is designed to prevent a repetition of the recent Fernand and South Tyrone by-election whereby Mr Robert Sands, the IRA hunger striker, was elected MP for the constituency.

It disqualifies convicted persons serving sentences of more than 12 months for membership of, or nomination for election to, the House of Commons while still in prison.

The Home Office apparently overlooked the fact that the IRA, from pushing for an election, a convicted person in Portlouis, the high security jail in the Republic, who could well have been born in Northern Ireland and would therefore have been eligible for nomination.

Mr Roy Hattersley, Opposition spokesman on Home Affairs, pointed out that the loophole could only result in the Government being ridiculed and humiliated.

Mr Whitelaw intervened to agree that the loophole existed and added that he was prepared to give sympathetic consideration to any amendments.

Within minutes of Mr Hattersley's rebuke, Conservative MPs were making the same point to the Home Secretary.

Mr Whitelaw said that the people to whom the Bill applied were not mere cranks or jokers. They were people manifestly unfit for public office who had exploited a loophole in the electoral law.

There was a widespread sense of outrage not merely at the election of a convicted

terrorist but at the fact that his nomination should have been allowed to stand. Allow-

With a free vote on the Labour side of the House, Mr Hattersley said that he had the deepest forebodings about the Bill. It was always dangerous suddenly to invent a general theory to deal with individual difficulties and he felt that the Bill would help rather than hinder the IRA.

While it was not the right of an IRA gunman to sit in the House of Commons, it was the right of the constituency to elect an MP of its choosing. The Bill considerably diminished the right of citizens to choose their parliamentary representative.

If a constituency chose an imprisoned person as its MP that was exactly what it should get: an imprisoned MP. Mr Hattersley said it was not for MPs to overrule the choice made by the constituency.

The Bill was later given a second reading by 248 votes to 137, a Government majority of 111.

Seventh Maze man joins hunger strike

A seventh hunger striker yesterday joined the Maze prison fast. (Christopher Thomas writes from Belfast.)

Michael Devine, aged 27, a father of two from the Creggan Estate, Londonderry, is a member of the Irish Republican Socialist Party.

He was arrested in September, 1976, after a raid on a collection of weapons, and sentenced to 12 years in June, 1977. He immediately went "on the blanket" by refusing to wear prison clothing.

One more man is due to join the hunger strike soon. The aim is to keep the number fasting to eight by replacing each man who dies. The next death is likely in about three weeks.

Parliamentary report, page 6

SDP doubt over Liberal for Croydon

By George Clark, Political Correspondent

Leaders of the Social Democratic Party met yesterday to review the prospects for the SDP-Liberal alliance in the forthcoming Croydon, North-West, by-election and after issued a statement which could be taken as a criticism of the prospective Liberal candidate, already in the field.

He is Mr William Pitt, aged 43, chairman of the London Liberal Party and a housing action officer with Lambeth council who lost his deposit when he fought the seat at the last general election.

But when Mr Pitt met Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, to discuss the by-election yesterday he was assured of the party's 100 per cent backing and it seems almost certain that he will be the standard-bearer for the alliance when the by-election takes place in the autumn.

In a private conversation with Mr Steel over the weekend, Mrs Shirley Williams indicated that she would not be putting herself forward as an alternative candidate.

After the steering committee of the SDP had discussed the current relationship between the two parties, Mr William Rodgers, MP for Teesside, Stockton, and one of the SDP leaders, said: "We took it for granted that the Liberals wanted to fight the seat, so they do want to fight it, we hope that they will have a good candidate who the local Social Democrats can support."

"We hope that the local SDP members and the local Liberals will act in the spirit of the agreement that was sealed last week on behalf of our two parties."

Some Liberals feel that this statement could be regarded as a snide comment on the credentials and fighting spirit of the adopted candidate. They fear that comments of this kind could lead to a rift between the two parties just at a time when they need the maximum degree of unity.

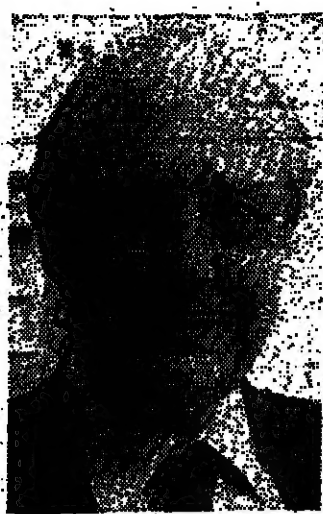
Tension has been noticed between the two parties as a result of statements made by Mr David Owen, one of the four leaders of the SDP. The Liberals recall several occasions when Mr Owen has referred to the future, leaving out of the picture the Liberal Party's share in fighting for power.

Mr Steel was not well pleased when Mrs Williams declined to fight the Warrington by-election.

At a three-day conference at Warwick University which ended yesterday, about 100 student supporters of the SDP decided to set up a steering committee in readiness for a campaign of recruiting among students in the autumn term.

The committee's chairman, Mr John Munford, general secretary of the London School of Economics student union, said: "Our aim is to recruit more than 1,000 new students to the SDP in the first weeks of the autumn term."

Mr Roy Jenkins will face another Social Democratic Party candidate in the Warrington by-election (the Press Association reports). The candidate, Mr Tony Kean, will represent the Manchester SDP, which has taken legal action against the national party for using the name its members say was their idea.



Sir John Biggs-Davison: His second letter bomb.

Letter bomb to MP intercepted

By Stewart Tisdler, Crime Reporter

A letter bomb addressed to Sir John Biggs-Davison, Conservative MP for Epping Forest, was discovered at the House of Commons sorting office yesterday. Scotland Yard said it was similar to bombs posted to the Prince of Wales, the Prime Minister and a number of MPs.

Sir John said later he was very grateful to the sorter who had spotted the bomb. He added that it was the second he had received; in 1972 one was sent to his home by a group called Saor Uladh (Free Ulster).

The devices first began to appear in January and have been sent to MPs including Mrs Jill Knight (Birmingham, Edgbaston); Mr Barry Porter (Bebington and Ellesmere Port); Mr Roy Hattersley, the shadow Home Secretary, and Mr James Kilfedder (Down, North).

Last week one addressed to Mr Geoffrey Janner, MP for Leicester, West, was discovered at a Sussex post office.

Police believe most of the bombs are the work of a single person who could be mentally disturbed. That sent to Mr Janner may be another's work.

All but the bomb sent to Mr Janner were in a padded envelope and only one was not intercepted.

Unions draw up new economic policy

By Donald Macintyre, Labour Reporter

Senior trade union and Labour Party leaders yesterday reached an economic policy agreement intended to form part of a new social contract which can reinforce the party's general election platform.

Although the TUC-Labour Party liaison committee took a further step towards an agreed joint statement on incomes and prices, it has actively resisted conflict by leaving detailed discussion of a wages policy for the future.

The committee meeting, attended by Mr Michael Foot, leader of the party, broadly endorsed a redrafted document on economic issues facing the next Labour government, which affirms that an agreed policy to control inflation "will be essential to safeguard expansion".

The document commits a future Labour government to a policy aimed at restoring full employment through improved public and private investment, the use of a national investment bank, and improved public services.

Such an assessment, which is described as carefully, vague terms, would take into account the share of national income absorbed by profits as well as "earnings from employment".

At the same time the document reaffirms commitment to a "Price Commission with powers to enable prices to be investigated, controlled or reduced".

Some of the key points of the document are: "The Government will ensure that the share of national income absorbed by profits as well as 'earnings from employment' is maintained at a level consistent with full employment and economic growth."

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Sir Peter and the battle for profitability

By Michael Bailey, Transport Correspondent

So far as railway electrification is concerned, it is now abundantly clear what happened at last week's Cabinet meeting. Mrs Margaret Thatcher did not drop a glove for Sir Peter Parker to pick up; she threw down a gauntlet.

According to Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Transport, in his Commons statement yesterday, there will be no government commitment to a rolling programme of electrification, large or small, as recommended in the joint study of British Rail and his department earlier this year.

Instead, electrification schemes will be approved one by one as British Rail demonstrates its profitability through potential revenue and productivity gains.

But British Rail has said that without sharply increased investment—an extra £36m a year for electrification and £22m for associated rolling stock signalling and track—the railways will go into rapid decline by 1983 and 3,000 miles of track will become unusable by 1990.

Thus the stage is now set for the kind of confrontation over the future of the railways that last took place under Beeching nearly 20 years ago, with a tough-minded Conservative government representing taxpayer interests on one side and the rail users—the environmentalists and rail unions—on the other.

In the middle stands Sir Peter, British Rail's ebullient chairman, who could be the best man to bring about reconciliation; but who in some Government eyes has failed to deliver on productivity, and who they see as muddying the waters with a private gain claim of his own (£400,000-£500,000 a year) as the price of continuing to manage the railway after September.

The argument has changed in one important respect since Beeching, in that no one now expects to bring about a railway in a small country to pay (only freight railways) in large countries, like the United States and the Soviet Union do (not).

So it is common ground (except perhaps like British Rail and London Transport) should receive a large subsidy from the public purse (£660m for British Rail last year), as part of their normal financing.

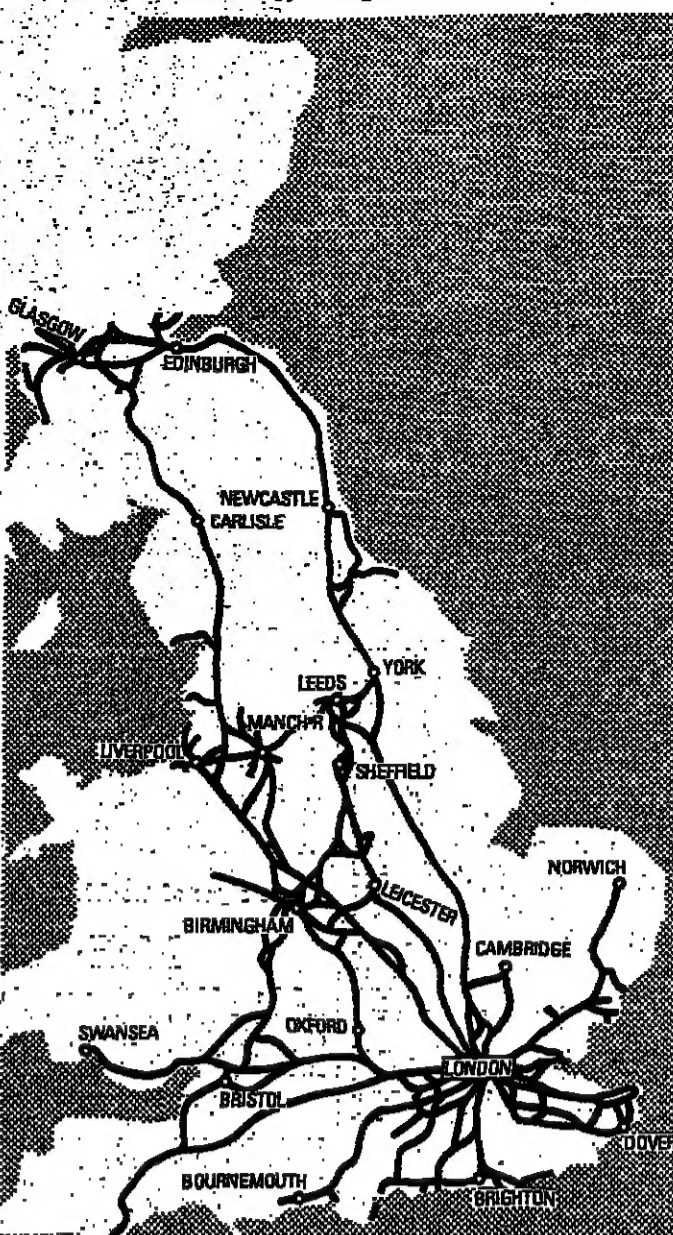
But in another sense, the argument is the same. What is also common ground (except perhaps for the far left) that subsidies do not necessarily buy good value.

Obviously the "desirable" outcome, which Mrs Thatcher presumably, and Mr Fowler, certainly would approve, is that the railways should continue but in a less costly and wasteful form.

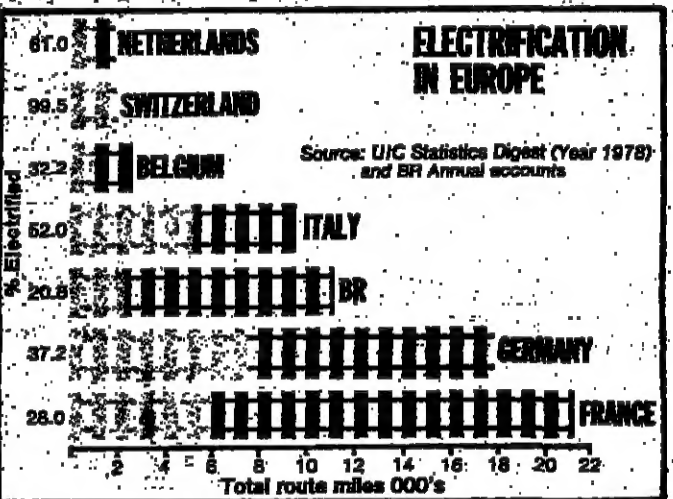
In a Balance Sheet of Change put to the rail unions last November, Sir Peter stated that the Government was to be taken by the railways, and those by the Government, to get British Rail moving. These have since been quantified in crude terms at a 38,000 manpower reduction on the part of British Rail, and a 10,000 on the part of London Transport.

For its part, British Rail seems to be doing quite well. More than 7,000 jobs have already gone, roughly on target, and another 10,000 are expected to be cut by the end of the year.

But there is still incredibly



Electrification in the 1990s of up to 42 per cent of British Rail's network: this could be the map of the main line electric services then, assuming BR meets the successive profitability targets set out in yesterday's government policy statement. At present 23 per cent of the network is to be electrified. British Rail had sought approval for a scheme covering 52 per cent of the present network. (Non-electric services not shown on map.)



few weeks. Marshalling yards, largely superfluous in days of block trains and through freight wagons, are being closed steadily, and the 5 per cent cut in train services to match falling demand is also proceeding in train services to match falling demand.

For example, the agreement with the Associated Society of

CRITICS OF MELLISH ON ATTACK

By Sarah Segre

Mr Robert Mellish, MP for Southwark, Bermondsey, and former Labour Chief Whip, was accused yesterday of being out of touch with his constituency and of "drifting away from the party and local community".

Mr Peter Tatchell, secretary of his local Labour Party, said in a statement that the MP was out of touch with the main stream of local party opinion. It was a response to Mr Mellish's announcement last Friday that he was considering his personal position as an MP.

Mr Mellish's views on several party issues are involved, but there is also criticism of his accepting the vice-chairmanship of the Docklands Development Corporation, which the local party considers is transferring powers from the democratically elected council to people not accountable to the local community.

Mr Mellish last night reacted by saying that the Labour Party in Bermondsey believes that rubbish I shall be very surprised indeed." He said the comments typified the trendy left in the constituency.

Scots courts paralysed by strikes, top lawyers say

By David Felton, Labour Reporter

The heads of the legal professions in Scotland have told the Government and the Civil Service unions that their legal system is virtually paralysed and damage caused by the union industrial action "may well be irreparable".

In an unprecedented statement issued under the auspices of The Law Society of Scotland, the leading lawyers say: "The prolonged denial of justice in Glasgow, Sheriff Court, has created a situation which any civilised community must regard as intolerable."

The legal authorities in Scotland also said that many people awaiting trial have been released on bail when they would normally have been remanded in custody.

The statement to the Government and the unions was signed by Mr Charles Kemp Davidson QC, the Dean of the Faculty of Advocates (the English equivalent is chairman of the Bar Council), Professor Philip M. Love, President of the Law Society of Scotland, Mr Desmond Queen, President of the Glasgow Bar Association and Mr James Smith, Dean of the Royal Faculty of Procurators in Glasgow.

They say: "After 12 weeks of virtual paralysis the contribution of Glasgow Sheriff Court to the administration of justice in Scotland has become negligible."

Many prisoners are being held in Bannockburn jail, in Glasgow, on remand awaiting trial far longer than is usual. The Crown Office in Edinburgh, which is the equivalent of England's Director of Public Prosecutions, said last night that exceptions had been made for between 40 and 50 remand prisoners to remain in custody on remand beyond the

110 days specified under Scottish law.

Those prisoners who are not brought to trial within the specified period should be set free, but the Crown Office has argued that in the cases that the delays cannot be blamed on the prosecution and extensions of their remand in custody have been granted by judges, albeit reluctantly in several cases.

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They say: "After 12 weeks of virtual paralysis the contribution of Glasgow Sheriff Court to the administration of justice in Scotland has become negligible."

Science report Genetic technique to make new plants

By the Staff of "Nature"

Plant breeders have discovered a potentially powerful new tool for creating new plants, a means to transfer a single, helpful characteristic from one plant to another. Gregor Mendel, the retiring monk who discovered the science of genetics, would have been astounded to know that this can now be done.

Normally, a plant with one desirable characteristic (such as high yield in one variety of corn) is crossed with another (such as one with a strong stem to resist high winds, but low yield) in the hope of generating offspring with both needed characters. But the offspring will also pick up other undesired characteristics from the parents, and so only a laborious process of crossing, re-crossing and selection over many generations can create a new useful variety.

In the new method, Dr J. Jinks, Dr P. Calliger, and Dr N. Ingram of the University of Birmingham first give the pollen of the male parent a dose of gamma radiation—much more than is normally used to induce random mutations—before crossing. In their experiments the pollen donors were green tobacco plants with plain flowers and black ovaries; the maternal parent was tobacco with mottled flowers and yellow ovaries. The plants also differed in many other characters, such as height.

The researchers were surprised to find that the offspring did not contain a mixture of their parents' characters, but were very similar to the original maternal parent, even in characters in which the paternal parent was normally dominant. Such characters as the pollen donor's height, flower color and ovary color were found, for example, which had black ovaries but were otherwise very similar to the maternal parent.

Even more remarkably, some of the offspring (about 18 per cent) had inherited a single characteristic from the paternal parent. Plants were found, for example, which had black ovaries but were otherwise very similar to the maternal parent.

What seems to be happening is that the gamma radiation is breaking up the structures containing genetic information, in the pollen, being pulverized. Those broken chromosomes, however, are not so damaged that they cannot be transferred to the maternal plant by the growth of a pollen tube and stimulate the egg to begin development.

Normally, corresponding chromosomes from each of the parents would then pair off, because the maternal chromosomes are broken it seems that the maternal chromosomes double and pair with themselves. At some stage during this doubling bits of the paternal chromosomes are incorporated, but how this takes place is not known.

If the technique can be developed in other species, it could transform plant breeding. It amounts to a new kind of genetic engineering, cruder perhaps than the sophisticated techniques of molecular biology, but it may be more practical for the breeder seeking quick improvements in his stock.

Source: Nature vol 291, p 556 (Nature-Times News Service).

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Nott expected to detail defence cuts on Thursday

By Henry Stanhope, Defence Correspondent

Plans have been made for Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Defence, to announce the results of his defence review to Parliament on Thursday. But they will not be completed until the day itself in two of "a bit getting into the system" as one official put it yesterday.

Mr Nott was heard with "sympathetic understanding" in Washington at the weekend, when he explained his position to Mr Caspar Weinberger, his opposition number in the Reagan administration.

The mood was friendly, according to sources, and Mr Nott's account of how far he had progressed was listened to without any criticism. It is thought likely that the two men will confer again by telephone before Mr Nott makes his disclosures to the Commons.

The Defence Secretary is paying a similar call today on Dr Joseph Luns, Secretary-General of Nato, in Brussels. Tomorrow he goes on to Bonn to visit Herr Hans Apel, the West German defence minister.

If all goes according to plan, Mr Nott's proposals will be endorsed by the Cabinet on Thursday in time for an afternoon statement in the Commons. If there is any last minute hitch the denouement will come any time during the next two weeks.

Mr Nott is understood to be emphasizing on his whistle-stop

tour of the principal allies that Britain will continue to raise defence spending by an annual 3 per cent until 1986. As the Royal Navy is expected to suffer most acutely in the reshaping of the budget he is thought to have survived the toughest test through his confrontation with the Americans, Nato's main maritime power.

The Europeans by contrast will probably be relieved that Mr Nott's proposals do not inflict more damage on Britain's presence in West Germany where the British Army of the Rhine is based.

One advantage of a Thursday statement from the Government's point of view is that it will end the current wave of speculation which is held to be harmful to morale among the services.

Another is that it will give coverage in the Friday newspapers with a Commons Defence Committee report on the strategic weapons policy. Although the main report will endorse the Government decision to buy the Trident nuclear missile from the United States, there will be a dissenting amendment from Opposition members of the 11-man committee.

There is an unwritten rule in Whitehall that the best way to defuse two controversial announcements is to ensure that they are made simultaneously.

Navy reductions seen as recipe for defeat

By Peter Hennessy

Britain's maritime lobby yesterday began the fight back against cuts in naval strength to which are to be announced shortly as part of the Government's defence review.

A meeting of the Greenwich Forum in the House of Lords resulted in the sending of a letter to the Prime Minister, signed by MPs, peers, sailors, industrialists and academics. It gave a warning that deep cuts in the Royal Navy's surface fleet would be an act from which only the country's enemies would benefit and a recipe for defeat in time of war.

The Greenwich Forum is a broadly-based and influential group of maritime experts. It was established in 1973 with the aim of bringing to the attention of a wider public the importance of maritime matters to British interests.

Among the signatories of the letter were Mr Keith Speed, Conservative MP for Ashford, and formerly navy minister, who was dismissed by the Prime Minister last month after speaking publicly about the likely effects of a defence review on naval forces.

Others included Miss Janet Foxkes, Conservative MP for Plymouth, Drake; Lord Lloyd of Kilgerran, a member of the

House of Lords defence study group; Rear Admiral Morgan Giles, former Conservative MP; Mr George Connor, chairman of the British Naval Equipment Association; Captain John Moore, editor of *James Fighting Ships*; and Prof Donald Watt, Chairman of the British Naval Forum and Professor of International history at the London School of Economics.

The letter to Mrs Margaret Thatcher said that the strength of the Royal Navy had been diminished as a result of past economies. The public remained unaware of the hazards such cuts had already produced.

"Without an unimpeded flow of seaborne trade, without the navy's protection of our own fisheries and our own sources of energy beneath the North Sea, we believe that Britain's future, and that of our partners in Europe and across the Atlantic, will be dark and perilous", the letter states.

Captain Moore told yesterday's meeting that every member of the Cabinet should read Admiral Gorshkov's book, *Sea Power and the State*, in order to appreciate the nature of the Soviet maritime threat to the West. "At the last count, none of them had read it", he said.

Broadmoor ex-staff man in attack

By Craig Seton

A television documentary in which former patients and nurses at Broadmoor severely criticize the regime at the special hospital for mentally abnormal offenders and make allegations of brutal treatment is to be shown tomorrow night.

The documentary, to be shown on ITV, is supported by the National Association for Mental Health (NAMH) which is now arguing a test case against the Government at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg over a mental patient who claims he was unlawfully detained under the Mental Health Act 1959 and was deprived of the right to have his case reviewed in a court of law. It affects the rights of about 2,000 "restricted" patients.

NAMH has brought cases before the European Court on behalf of four Broadmoor patients and it announced yesterday that a former patient who appears in the film has also had his case held admissible by the European Commission of Human Rights to be heard by the Department of Health and Social Security, which refused permission to film inside Broadmoor, said the staff at the hospital were not satisfied that the programme would be "all balanced".

NAMH maintains that one of the main defects of Broadmoor is that while its population includes people who are dangerous, a substantial proportion are people who are simply in need of treatment.

RADIATION RISKS EXAMINED

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Proposed revisions to radiation exposure were discussed at a conference in London yesterday.

At the meeting, organized by the British Association for the Advancement of Science, experts from the United States and Britain examined new protection regulations, agreed by the International Radiological Protection Commission, which will form the basis of the law on radiation safety in the United Kingdom. They are contained in a document called ICRP-26.

The conclusions of the international organization are to be adopted for revised government regulations to be ready in about six months. Argument over them turns on the evidence for estimating the risks of genetic damage and of an increase in the incidence of cancer from persistent but slight exposure to low levels of radiation.

Professor A. C. Upson of the Institute of Environmental Medicine, New York, highlighted the uncertainties when he explained that an important re-evaluation was to be made in the United States of the effects on the population of Hiroshima and Nagasaki of the atomic bombing.

Sir Edward Pocin, a member of the National Radiological Protection Board, argued that the improved approach in ICRP-26 gave a framework to estimate the risks from radiation and to compare them with the risk of other industrial activities and accidents in general.

'Lost' typhoid suspect never left town

By Nicholas Timmins

A lost Chinese businessman (th suspected typhoid, who as thought to be flying round urope seeking treatment, yesterday turned out to be still here he was said to have acted out in Lagos, Nigeria. is condition was improving. The false alarm nevertheless d to a call for tighter controls or international regulations vering the movement of air- res of patients with fever or ntigious diseases.

Dr Anthony Hall, a consultant the Hospital for Tropical seases in London, who was igitally asked to take the sinessman, Mr Robert Chew, a patient, said the Depart- of Health and Social urity should set up a foreign

patients unit to help to enforce the existing regulations, and to prevent doctors signing fraudulent notes to get patients with contagious diseases transported to England.

"We have had cases in the past where a doctor gives the patient two letters, one to show the airline, the other for a doctor at this end, to say the patient has suspected typhoid. The doctor is writing a fraudulent note to help the patient to come over."

A central health service unit could put pressure on medical authorities to discipline doctors who adopt such a course, because international regulations prohibit the transport of



Photograph by Jonathan Player

Splashing into summer

No summertime blues for this youngster taking the waters at Hyde Park Lido, London, yesterday, and staying cool into the bargain. The young pupil from the International English School in Holland Square had the right idea as tem-

peratures soared. With high pressure remaining in the South, the prospect of the warm weather continuing looks good. However, weak troughs of low pressure are crossing northern Britain.

Weather forecast, back page

Third airport inquiry to be widened

By Arthur Reed, Air Correspondent

The scope of the inquiry into the third London airport is almost certain to be widened from considering the development of Stansted, Essex, to take in both Heathrow and Gatwick, a site on the Essex coast.

That follows planning applications by Unilever District Council, in whose area Stansted lies, for the development of Heathrow and by the Town and Country Planning Association for the development of Gatwick.

Both applications are expected to be called in by the Department of the Environment for public inquiry, and it is also expected that those inquiries will be consolidated with the Stansted inquiry due to begin on September 15. As a result, the inquiry could last a year.

Mr J. F. Vernon, chief executive of Unilever District Council, said yesterday: "It seems sensible that the development of terminal five at Heathrow should be fully debated in the Stansted inquiry, rather than waiting two or three years for a further hearing."

British Airways, the main user of Heathrow, is to press strongly for the development of a fifth terminal on a 270-acre site occupied by a sewage works on the western perimeter of Heathrow airport.

Mr Roy Watts, chief executive of British Airways, said that there was no need for another large London airport this century because of lower

growth rates of air transport. The full development of existing airports could be sufficient.

Operating from yet another London airport would raise the airline's costs. Calculations showed that if British Airways had to move a substantial part of its operations to a prematurely developed Stansted, its annual costs would be £150m to £200m more than if it was concentrated at Heathrow and Gatwick.

The application by the British Airports Authority to develop Stansted to take 15m passengers a year was strongly attacked in a letter to *The Times* yesterday by Sir Colin Buchanan, the architect.

Urging the airports authority to withdraw its application, he wrote: "Never before has a project aroused such massive and varied opposition as at Stansted today. The conclusion is inescapable—the British Airports Authority will not win."

The authority yesterday discounted any suggestion that it might withdraw. It commented: "The Government's invitation to us to plan the development of Stansted followed nearly five years of consultation, not only with the air transport industry but with a wide range of other interests."

"It is no solution to suggest that the whole issue is referred back yet again. The delay would only endanger the success of an industry which is important to Britain."

Release of Lord Kagan from prison delayed

Lord Kagan was not released from prison yesterday, as expected.

He has been serving a 10-month sentence in Rudgegate Open Prison, near Wetherby, North Yorkshire, and was expected to walk out a free man yesterday after serving six months of his sentence.

When several prisoners left at 7.15 am, he was not among them. A prison officer told journalists that all prisoners due for release had left.

No reason was given, and the prison governor, Mr Nigel Berry, was said to be "too busy" to discuss the subject.

A close friend, who has kept contact since Lord Kagan was jailed on theft and false accounting charges last December, said: "You know Joe, he may well have done a deal with the governor to avoid the press."

Lord Kagan has spent some time in prison helping his lawyers to sort out legal wrangles over unsettled debts.

Warning to drivers over invalid summonses

Drivers hoping to clear themselves of motoring convictions on the strength of a recent test case over invalid summonses were warned by two High Court judges yesterday not to "jump on the bandwagon".

Although two motorists won appeals after a ruling that the issue of "summonses cannot be delegated" to magistrates' court staff and can only be done by magistrates or their clerk, Lord Justice Griffiths said the decision should not be regarded as a spur to others.

He said: "We do not wish this decision to give any encouragement to others to think that at a late stage they can climb on this particular bandwagon."

The High Court was sure that the issue of summonses was no longer a delegated matter, judge, sitting with Mr Justice Woolf.

The judges, in the Queen's Bench Divisional Court, were giving guidance to magistrates and clerks on how to deal with various difficulties arising from the "no delegation" ruling earlier this year.

As a result of the ruling thousands of prosecutions had failed because they were based on summonses which had been "rubber stamped" by office clerks.

Three appeals were dismissed after the judges ruled that, although the summonses might originally have been defective, the information relating to each case had been "laid before" the magistrates within the six months' time limit when the proceedings were called on and then adjourned. That cured any defects.

The two drivers who successfully challenged their convictions were Mr Derek Ives, of Mersey Road, Garshead, and Mr Carl Philip Moody.

The three drivers, who unsuccessfully challenged prosecution were Leonard Hill, of Grosvenor Street, Stalybridge, Manchester; Stephen Hughes, of Edward Avenue, Chingford, Essex; and Ghan Singh Dhesi, of Lennox Avenue, Gravesend, Kent.



Lost dancer hid in loft

Michelle Jarrett, aged 19, the missing ballerina, who reappeared yesterday after hiding for almost a week in the loft of her home in the Great West Road, Hounslow. She reappeared only an hour and a half after her worried father arrived from Australia to look for her. The girl, a Rambert Academy student, who had a Queen's scholarship, disappeared last Wednesday on the eve of a first night performance.

Mr Clive Jarrett, who was near tears when police told him they had found her in the attic, said: "My daughter has returned from her walkabout. I arrived here this morning and lay on Michelle's bed trying to work out where she could be. Then I had this feeling she was here in the house. I left for the police station and must have passed the police on their way to the house. I got a call there to say Michelle had been found in the loft. It was a fearful reunion. I just told her get cleaned up, and we're taking the first flight home."

A family friend, Mr Christopher Mencer, who has been driving the distraught father through west London in search of his daughter said her classmates knew nothing of her hiding place.

HARD WORK COMES FIRST

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES FIRST ENGLISH ENTERPRISE ZONE FOR INDUSTRY

Corby is now an Enterprise Zone. And that's official. Because the Government announced today that Corby has been selected to be the first officially designated area in England to offer a package of benefits and incentives never before enjoyed by industrialists.

So why Corby first, ahead of other areas? It probably had a lot to do with Corby's reputation for hard work. Corby boasts an exceptionally strong community spirit, a major driving force behind all Corby's efforts. But not only is the community committed to Corby's future, it's also made up of a skilled industrial workforce.

The community has had a voice, too. Corby moved speedily and efficiently in discussions with the Government. And an extensive promotional campaign has been informing Government and industrialists alike just how strong the community spirit is.

Like the campaign stated, the people of Corby have never been afraid of hard work. And now, as an Enterprise Zone, it looks like their efforts are about to be rewarded.

- Enterprise Zone status means:
- * Rates (local tax) free for 10 years
 - * 100% of building costs available for initial depreciation allowance
 - * No industrial training board levies
 - * Exemption from Development Land Tax
 - * Simplified planning procedures
 - * Eased customs warehousing facilities

In addition Corby offers the grants and incentives of a Development Area and the obvious attractions of being located in the prosperous S.E. with a market of 30 million people within a 100 mile radius.

For further information, contact Fred McLoughlin, Director of Industry, Douglas House, Queens Sq., Corby, Northants. Tel: Corby 62571. Telex: 341544.

CORBY WORKS

Shared-out peanuts foiled poison plot, QC says

From Our Correspondent, Winchester

A poisoned peanut plot was hatched to eliminate a young Libyan family who defied the orders of Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, to return to their country, a jury was told at Winchester Crown Court yesterday.

A package of dry roasted peanuts, packed with a deadly rat poison was given to Farah Ghesouda, his English-born wife, Heather, aged 34, and their two children, by a fanatical Libyan nationalist, Hosni Farhat, the prosecution alleged.

But only the couple's two children, Karim, aged eight and his sister, Souad, aged seven, and the family's pet Pekingese dog, ate the nuts.

The children shared the nuts, saying "one for you, one for me", and it was that childlike sense of fair play that saved their lives, Mr Ian Kennedy QC, for the prosecution, told the court.

"When they scattered the peanuts on to the bedside table, a lot of the poison fell into the clock and most of it was wasted," he said.

Four days later the children became ill and were rushed to the National Hospital for Nervous Diseases, in west central London. They recovered, although not before experiencing some horrible side-effects, Mr Kennedy went on. Their hair fell out, and their central nervous system was affected.

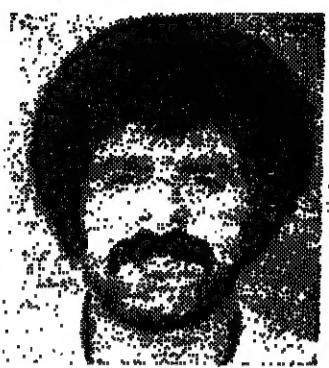
"The poison destroys the nerves which control breathing and heart action so eventually the body comes to a stop," the children were in very grave danger, but have now made a complete recovery. The

family's pet dog, however, died after eating a fatal dose. Farhat, aged 33, an airline worker, has denied six charges: four of trying to murder the Ghesouda family last November at their home, a council flat in Portsmouth. He is also accused of maliciously administering poison to the two children to endanger their lives.

Mr Kennedy said the defendant met Mr Ghesouda when they were both in the Libyan Navy being trained by the Royal Navy in Portsmouth.

Mr Farhat was described by Mr Kennedy as a "loyal Libyan and enthusiastic supporter of his country's government" and was angry when Mr Ghesouda refused to return home.

"Those who did not obey their order were warned that they were putting themselves in great danger and must face the consequences," the prosecution said Farhat tried to bring home those consequences to the family," Mr Kennedy said.



Hosni Farhat: "Loyal Gaddafi supporter."

The deadline to return home was last June, but the Ghesoudas made it plain that they would stay in Britain. After failing to persuade them to change their minds, Mr Farhat hatched his poisoned peanut plot.

Mr Farhat, who was living in Castle Road, Portsmouth, bought the peanuts at a bingo hall in Southsea, Mr Kennedy said. Later that night he went to the Ghesouda's flat and, although frightened of him, they invited him to stay for a curry meal.

After Mrs Ghesouda had made coffee, Mr Farhat put the peanuts on the table. When he left in the early hours he left the unopened packet behind, the jury heard. Next morning the two young Ghesouda children, with their father's permission, shared out the peanuts.

That evening the Ghesoudas, worried about Mr Farhat's late night visit, called in the police. They remembered the peanuts and the packet was sent for analysis.

Tests showed the poison in the peanut bag. The children, who were showing symptoms of poisoning were taken to hospital and Mr Farhat was arrested.

Police found a supply of the rat poison "more than enough to kill a dozen people" - hidden behind a bathroom panel in his house. Traces of the powder were also found under Mr Farhat's fingernails and his fingerprints were on paper used to funnel the poison into the packet, Mr Kennedy said.

The poison was not named in the court on the direction of the judge, Mr Justice Bristow. The hearing continues today.

Opera grant refusal for GLC debate

By Kenneth Gosling Arts Reporter

The Greater London Council is to debate on July 7 the new Labour administration plan to halt the remaining £550,000 instalment of its previously agreed film grant towards the development of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

The council's Arts and Recreation Committee learnt yesterday that the Royal Opera House had received "firm legal advice" on the matter.

The opera house said it would view with deep repugnance any prospect of being involved in litigation with the GLC, with whom it had enjoyed a solid relationship.

The committee was told that the gift was not a contractual obligation.

Homeless woman gave son day out before killing him

A mother suffering from overwhelming depression tried to make sure her son, aged five, enjoyed his last day alive by taking him on a trip to London, and then she killed him while he was asleep, a court was told. Mrs Justice Taylor at the Central Criminal Court ordered Anne Pieraccini, aged 37 of Garrison Lane, Ipswich, to be detained in hospital. She had denied murdering her son Simon Duffield, but pleaded guilty to manslaughter on the ground of diminished responsibility.

Mr Michael Coombe, for the prosecution, said Mrs Pieraccini killed the boy because she felt they had no future, nowhere to go and no home. Afterwards she planned to kill herself. "It is an exceptionally sad case," he said.

Mrs Pieraccini's marriage to the boy's father ended in

divorce. She then married Mr Pieraccini, but from a very early stage the marriage was a total failure.

Mrs Pieraccini was turned out of the house with the boy and in February she took him to London. They visited Buckingham Palace and the Queen's Gallery.

As the child lay asleep that night she tried to kill him with a heavy ashtray, but he woke up. She comforted him, telling him he had had a nightmare and then, as he slept again, she stabbed him through the heart.

Mrs Pieraccini then tried to cut herself and took pills, but they did not work.

Mr Justice Taylor said: "It is quite clear that you loved your son and you killed him not from any malice but because you were suffering from overwhelming depression. It is not a case where the court should add to your punishment."

Boyson is accused of half-truths

By Diana Geddes Education Correspondent

The leader of the university teachers' union yesterday accused Mr Rhodes Boyson, the minister responsible for higher education, of putting out "half-truths and misinformation" and of hoodwinking the public about the state of universities. Mr Lawrence Sapper, general secretary of the Association of University Teachers, said: "I'm fed up with these glib statements that Dr Boyson is pumping around on radio, television and in Parliament. It is frightening to think that government policies on the universities may be based on these half-truths and misinformation. The public, press and MPs are being hoodwinked."

Mr Boyson had said the universities had to be "recast" to take account of the dramatic decline in the 18-year-old population over the next few years, Mr Sapper told a press conference in London.

In fact, the figures showed that throughout the 1980s, the 18-year-old population would be higher than throughout the 1970s.

Mr Boyson had claimed that the staff/student ratios in British universities were about twice as favourable as those in Harvard and Yale, in previous years, but that was not true.

Mr Boyson defended his statements last night. On student intake, he said that the number of 18-year-olds was due to peak next year then fall by nearly a third.

On staff/student ratios, the figures he quoted for Yale and Harvard came from Lord Vaizey, "one of the two most eminent educational economists in the country".

School religion still vital, Hume says

By Frances Gibb

The teaching of Christianity and worship at morning assembly still have a vital place in the school system, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Basil Hume, told a Commons select committee yesterday.

Society faced enormous problems, he said. There was "a malaise, a void, an absence of vision", while in previous generations was filled by Christianity, and nothing had replaced it.

The agonising questions of the nuclear issue, the disparity in wealth, race relations and unemployment came back to

the fundamental question of morality, and the question "What is man?"

Our young must be given some understanding of the meaning and purpose of our individual lives. Religion could not be taught "à la carte". It was not the right way to expose children to different religions, to sample, and let them choose one if they wished.

It was wrong to leave the young to discover the meaning of life for themselves. That also applied in the teaching of those who were not Christian.

It was very important for people to understand the

society in which they lived, and they could not understand that without learning about Christianity.

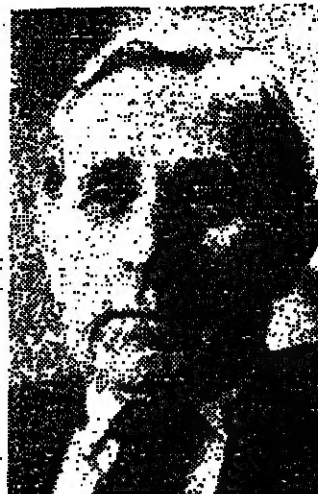
Cardinal Hume was giving evidence for the Catholic Education Council to the House of Commons Select Committee on Education, Science and the Arts under Mr Christopher Price, Labour MP for Lewisham West, which is investigating the secondary school curriculum and examinations.

He said that in every person was a yearning for a spiritual life and that was a spark which could be kindled and developed.

Whitehall brief

By Peter Hennessy

Cycling to dizzy heights in the Civil Service



Sir Kenneth Stowe: A thousand secrets.

There are more promising ways of starting a Civil Service career than to take you, via the Cabinet Office and the Prime Minister's Office, to two particularly demanding permanent secretaries, than by bicycling round Romford on behalf of the old National Assistance Board (NAB) visiting those in need of money and blankets.

But Sir Kenneth Stowe, Permanent Secretary to the Northern Ireland Office, who goes home to the Department of Health and Social Security next month after an absence of eight years, cherishes in memory of his six months in the NAB office in 1951. The experience will be of inestimable value in his new job, involving, as it does, supervising the disbursement annually of £27,000 on social security, and £11,000 on health, and £11,000 on local offices and a staff of 38,000.

In machinery of government terms, Sir Kenneth likened the NAB to "the sum of the engine" it contained the necessary lubricant but it was not all the NAB. He stayed there until the Social Security Act, 1966, which he helped frame, united the NAB and the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance into a new Ministry of Social Security which was itself merged with health two years later.

He had his first taste of Whitehall's commanding heights in 1973 at the relatively late

age of 46 when he became the Cabinet Office under secretary who prepared the briefs and took the minutes at the Cabinet's Legislation Committee.

The god who controls Whitehall promotions must have had a soft spot for Romford, the NAB or Sir Kenneth himself because, by a set of curious chances, instead of returning to the engine room of the welfare state, he was catapulted in 1975 into one of the half dozen most influential and demanding jobs in the Civil Service, that of Principal Private Secretary to the Prime Minister.

Sir Harold Wilson, it seems, did not care for Treasury-dominated lists of candidates he was offered as potential successors to Mr (now Sir) Robert Armstrong. He asked Sir John (now Lord) Hunt, the Secretary of the Cabinet (whom Sir Robert was to succeed) if the Cabinet Office had anyone suitable. Sir Kenneth's name was put forward.

At two hours notice Sir Kenneth found himself trying to talk Sir Harold out of appointing him on the grounds that he had spent his life on the periphery and had never been a private secretary before. Sir Harold found the idea even more appealing.

Sir Kenneth, who went on to serve Mr James Callaghan and Mrs Margaret Thatcher, is a man of a thousand secrets but a cloud of impenetrable discretion descended in his London office last week at the merest hint that he talk about the three very different Prime Ministers whose confidences he shared.

To abuse the trust of those as he put it whom he had lived alongside would be anathema to him.

Sir Kenneth's secret according to Downing Street watchers, was to be totally loyal to each one. Without a trace of the grandee he grew up in a London County Council overspill estate in Dagenham and "you cannot get more non U" than that. The manipulator or the entrepreneur of particular policy lines, his competence

and straightforward ordinariness gave him a substantial influence at the heart of government over a four-year period of difficult times for the occupants of No 10.

The art of a Prime Minister's Principal Private Secretary in the rough times, he said, "and it is an art, not a science" is clear thinking, a sense of urgency, an acute awareness of where the rough or sensitive point is going to arise. Coupled with that is a knowledge of how to get the best out of the resources of Whitehall.

Sir Kenneth spoke warmly of last week of life in the Northern Ireland Office: "Every one will go a second mile. There is a commitment to keep on trying. The words 'give up' are not part of the vocabulary here."

Retirement set in again when he was asked to comment on the suggestion that the essence of his task at the Department of Health and Social Security will be damage limitation—the preservation of those big bludge from the Treasury's blade.

The suspicion remained, however, that a fairly radical heart beats beneath that discreet exterior: "Civil servants," he said, "fall into two categories. Those who say 'Why should we?' and those who say 'Why don't we?'"

"I'm a 'Why don't we?' man. It gets you into trouble; but it makes life more interesting."

IN BRIEF

Fire on Sealink's new ferry

Fire in the engine room of Sealink's new ferry, the Earl Granville, forced her to return to Portsmouth yesterday. The 400 passengers, bound for Guernsey, were ordered to the stern while the 60 crew fought the fire. The Earl Granville went into service last month. Last night's sailing was cancelled.

Penny post pioneer

A copy of *The Times* was inside a container sealed yesterday into the base of the statue of Sir Rowland Hill, pioneer of the penny post, in his home town, Kidderminster, Hereford and Worcester. The statue was paid for in 1881 with penny stamps sent from all over the world.

£3m cathedral fund

The cathedral authorities at Chichester, Sussex, said yesterday that the fund target for restoration of the 800-year-old building over the next 20 years had risen from £2m to £3m, allowing for inflation. "A vast amount of eroded stonework needs replacement," it was stated.

Jet turns back

A jet taking 170 people on holiday to Corfu had to return to Luton yesterday when Mrs Linda Norton, of Childwickbury, St Albans, who is pregnant, began her contractions. Last night Luton and Dunstable hospital said she was comfortable.

Label appeal fails

An appeal by *The Sunday Express* against an award of £50,000 label damages to Mr Jack Hayward, the Bahamas-based millionaire and former Liberal Party benefactor, was dismissed in the Court of Appeal yesterday.

Law Report, page 22

'Crossroads' star to go

Noel Gordon, who plays Meg Mortimer in the ATV series *Crossroads*, will not have her contract renewed at the end of the year because of new plans for the series, ATV said yesterday.

Marathon music

English National Opera is to present a 50-hour weekend marathon of music from September 29 to 30 to try to raise £100,000 towards its jubilee appeal. Events will include a midnight matinee, a children's concert and a contest for young singers.

Priest resigns

Father James Wixsted, parish priest at Wantage, Oxfordshire, who aroused anger by holding a requiem mass for Robert Sandes, the dead IRA hunger striker, has resigned.

Sir Geraint ill

Sir Geraint Evans, the opera singer, has been forced to withdraw from next month's Mozart festival at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, because of illness.

Girl found dead

Tracey Suzanne Burton, aged 14, who was found dead on the banks of the river Severn at Tetford, Shropshire, yesterday had been sexually assaulted, police said.



Photograph by Ian Wright

Hats off to the Humber's new bridge

The maintenance staff of the Humber Bridge, the world's longest single-span suspension bridge, celebrating its final opening traffic tomorrow. Five years later, more than five times over its original budget, the subject of legal battles, industrial trouble, unlucky accidents and tremendous abuse, the bridge, is seen by its critics as a white elephant that will have cost £125m with interest charges, and by its supporters as the salvation of Humberside. It opens almost exactly a

century after the first serious proposal to put a bridge over the Humber. The bridge, which is five miles from Hull, will have the highest tolls in Britain: 50p for a motorcycle, £1 for a car and £7.50 for the largest juggernaut. Only two of its four lanes will open tomorrow as painting and finishing touches are still needed. Cyclists and pedestrians prepared to make the mile long trek from the cynics say, nowhere to nowhere, will cross the bridge free bower.

EXPULSION JUDGMENT RESERVED

The Home Office is deporting a woman who was the victim of deceit, double-crossing and bigamy, an immigration appeal tribunal heard.

Mr Stephen Cohen, representing Mrs Nasira Begum, aged 30, the deserted wife, said she was to be deported when her bigamy husband was getting away "scot free".

He was summing up in the hearing in which the Home Office contests an earlier decision by an immigration appeal adjudicator that Mrs Begum be allowed to stay in Britain.

The Home Office says she has no claim as a married woman because her husband was already married when he married her. Judgment was reserved.

Nationality Bill worries Dr Runcie

By Hugh Noyes Parliamentary Correspondent

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, told the House of Lords yesterday that the British Nationality Bill was seriously defective in its consideration of immigration.

In creating three new categories of citizen, the Bill was causing real anxieties, and even fear, among those people derived from the African, Asian and West Indian countries of the Commonwealth.

Dr Runcie said that was the view of the churches and although the clergy might be ill-advised to comment on current economic and political life, they were deployed in every locality of the country and among those in the inner cities most troubled by this Bill.

The Bill had to do justice to the existing fabric of social life and should not inject uncertainty where none had existed. The Bill was so complex that it was difficult for most people to understand. That was no good in a matter which changed something so basic.

While recognising that there were evil forces from the left and right ready to play on people's fears and to stir up racial tensions, Dr Runcie urged that the Government should not present them with any material to do so.

The Archbishop said that the Bill did not spell out the securities of citizenship within a multiracial society.

Race body morale harmed by changes, MPs told

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

The morale of staff at the Commission for Racial Equality was suffering because of the changes in which five commissioners were replaced last year, Mr Harold Mangan, one of the Home Office's senior officers, said yesterday.

He told the House of Commons Home Affairs Select Committee that the most radical commissioners had been removed to prevent criticism of government policy.

Those not reappointed included two deputy chairmen, Mr Pranlal Sheth, a director of a multinational assurance company and a barrister, and Mr Bashir Maan, a respected Labour councillor in Glasgow.

Another not reappointed was Mr Courtney Laws, a prominent community worker in Brixton, south London, who is known for his belief that the Commission should pay heed to grass-roots criticism.

Last week Mr Laws told Lord Scarman's inquiry that

two weeks before the Brixton riot he had warned police that their methods were leading to increased tension. Mr Laws is known as a moderate.

Mr Sheth said at the time the commissioners were dismissed that it was "a way of striking fear into the hearts of the ethnic minorities and a way of stifling their freedom of expression".

In March Mr Charles Boxer, director of one of the commission's three divisions, resigned, saying: "It is the top management that frustrates all those lower down because it is inept." Another of the divisional directors, Mr Suhail Arif, left.

In evidence to the MPs yesterday, Mr Mangan said: "Stiff morale is pretty low."

The evidence was given to the race relations and immigration subcommittee of the home affairs select committee, which is inquiring into the commission's operation and effectiveness.

ing Police Constable John Dziel was withdrawn after Davies pleaded guilty to the first charge.

Andrew James Hennen, aged 29, student of Gosington Road, Canterbury, another demonstrator who refused to move when police tried to prevent the march going ahead, was fined £50, with £25 costs.

March protesters fined

Christophers Davies, aged 29, warehouseman, of Old Ford Road, Bethnal Green, east London, was fined £20, with £20 costs yesterday for wilfully obstructing the highway at Kilburn High Road, Kilburn, north-west London on April 26. He was a demonstrator on a banned march in support of the Maze hunger strikers.

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MOST OF THE PEOPLE WHO BUY NEW VOLVOS HAVE OWNED ONE IN THE PAST.

THE REST ARE JUST GOOD AT ARITHMETIC.

Volvo 244DL	£6656
Rover 2300	£7061
Ford Granada 2.3L	£7235
BMW 520	£8150
Mercedes 200	£8700

Mugabe rules out joining sanctions on South Africans

Salisbury, June 22.—Mr Robert Mugabe, the Zimbabwe Prime Minister, said today that his country could not take part in any international trade sanctions against South Africa. Zimbabwe's economic dependence on its neighbours was such that it would be senseless to pretend it could join an embargo, Mr Mugabe said in an interview with Reuters on the eve of his departure for the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) summit in Nairobi.

There are expected to be talks at the meeting for sanctions aimed at forcing South Africa to yield on its terms to the independence of Namibia (South-West Africa) and to modify its domestic policies of racial segregation. Mr Mugabe, a prominent leader of the so-called front-line African states opposed to South African policies, said Zimbabwe sought only peace and cooperation with the republic. But South Africa, he said, was itching for war.

Mr Mugabe also said he believed that South Africa had drawn comfort from the election of President Reagan, whose Administration has been accused by black Africa of siding in favour of Pretoria. But he felt that ultimately the United States would not sacrifice its commitments to civil liberties and democracy in order to support apartheid.

At the OAU summit, Mr Mugabe said, Zimbabwe would seek firm stands on apartheid and on Namibia which South Africa rules in defiance of much world opinion. The organization had to give maximum support to liberation forces in South Africa and also work out political and economic measures "of a nature that can bring sense to South Africa", he said.

"Any such pressures would be acceptable to Zimbabwe. We have said Zimbabwe itself is not in a position to participate in any sanctions that the international community proposes, but we will not stand in the way of their imposition even if they hurt us."

More than 90 per cent of Zimbabwe's trade passes through South Africa. Mr Mugabe also said: "Supposing the international community appealed to us to stop trading with South Africa—we can't stop using rail routes with South Africa. We can't, you see. This is the reality. We send our goods to South Africa and South Africa sends some of its goods to us. That is the type of sanctions we cannot participate in."

He said that although Zimbabwe was trying to lessen its reliance on the republic, independence had not yet been achieved.

Throughout the interview, Mr Mugabe, sipping tea and nibbling at small cakes, spoke quietly and without emotion. Only once did he become slightly impassioned, when he said: "We are pledged to peace in this region and we seek no war with anybody. We want to pursue policies of peaceful co-existence with our neighbours."

"But South Africa is not searching for peace, it's actually itching for war. South Africa has got to make it possible for us to achieve that peace. It's not a one-sided affair."—Reuters.

Black student leaders captured in Soweto

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg, June 22

A black official of the South African Council of Churches has joined the list of people held by security forces in a wave of arrests and detentions.

Bishop Desmond Tutu, Secretary-General of the council, said here today that the Rev Sol Jacob, the council's director of mission and evangelism, had been detained in Pietermaritzburg, Natal, after police raided his home at 5 a.m.

Security police have confirmed the capture of several exiled black student leaders, including a former president of the banned Soweto Student Representative Council.

The captured students are said to be members of the South African Youth Revolutionary Council, which was formed by exiled student leaders to continue "resistance" work.

According to police sources, the revolutionary group members were captured when they tried to "infiltrate" Soweto, the black township outside Johannesburg.

It is claimed they had been trained in revolutionary activity in Nigeria after fleeing from South Africa.

Mr Walter Sisulu, the immediate past President of the media union, who is also a black journalist, and a former news editor of the banned Sunday Post, was also detained under security laws at the weekend.

The captured student leaders regard their group as a third revolutionary force, unaffected by the internal quarrels which have split the older generations of black nationalists.

There can be little doubt that the South African security police have brought off a considerable coup in seizing the leadership of the revolutionary council, in what appears to have been its first serious foray into Soweto to influence a generation of young students who have virtually forgotten or who are not accurately aware of the 1976 riots.

Hongkong says it with flowers

From Richard Hughes, Hongkong, June 22

Hongkong is supposed to have derived its name from the Chinese terms for "fragrant harbour" and it is now giving its new public housing estates and apartment blocks similar poetic Chinese names.

Five new estates have names meaning abundance of health, abundance of luck, heaven, benefit to the east and colourful garden.

Designers of the Colourful Garden estate, Choi Yuen, have set precedent by adapting variations on the "colourful" (choi) theme in their seven blocks, which have been named: colourful jade, screen, ke, pearl, flower, cloud and colourful and majestic.

Another estate has chosen its seven blocks China's proudest aspirations, meaning piety, beauty, achievement, peace, health, tranquility, and acedness.

This Hongkong campaign is said to influence the naming of new settlement areas and its building blocks in the Philippines, South Korea and Malaysia.

41 DIE IN IRAN ROAD CRASH

Tehran, June 22.—A collision between three buses and a lorry at Kerman, in south-east Iran, killed 41 people and injured 24, Tehran Radio reported.

The negligence of one of the drivers was blamed for the accident. The official PARS news agency said three people in the lorry were among the dead—Agence France Presse.

late deal averts US air traffic control strike

From Nicholas Hirst, Washington, June 22

A threatened air traffic controllers' strike which would have caused chaos to both national and domestic flights using American airports, has been averted.

In the early hours of this morning negotiators for the Federal Aviation Administration reached a tentative agreement with leaders of the 17,000 air traffic controllers who had threatened to strike today.

The Government's offer of pay and conditions was improved.

Details of the agreement have been released and it has been agreed that the controllers will go to the membership for ratification, but after 25 hours of negotiations over the last few days it seemed unlikely that there would be any late hitches.

Emergency plans had been prepared by government officials in an attempt to keep some services going and a federal judge refused to revoke an injunction which barred air traffic controllers from striking. Since the controllers are federal employees a strike would have been illegal and strikers could have risked fines or imprisonment.



Soldiers all: Members of the Laotian Army, which is open to men and women. It consists of former Pathet Lao guerrillas and royalist army elements.

100 reported dead in Casablanca

Casablanca, June 22.—More than 100 people were killed in two days of violent demonstrations during a general strike here at the weekend, a leader of the opposition Socialist Union of Popular Forces said today.

Many demonstrators, wounded when security forces fired on them, had died in police stations, he said. The strike, called by the Socialists and their trade union organization, was in protest at food price increases brought in last month.

The Socialist spokesman said 26 wounded people died while being held at a police station in the Roche Noires quarter, an industrial suburb north of Casablanca. There was no official confirmation of the casualty figures.

A doctor from one Casablanca hospital said that at least 10 people with gunshot wounds died in the hospital over the weekend.

The Socialist spokesman said there was practically a curfew here last night. Police and auxiliary forces patrolled the streets.

He said security forces fired on demonstrators, many of them young people, in several slum suburbs on Saturday and again yesterday. There were also demonstrations in Rabat, the Moroccan capital.—Reuters

Central America in turmoil

• This is the first of a series of articles on Central America.

From Stephen Downer, San José, Costa Rica, June 22

Not since the early 19th century has Central America been in such a state of turmoil.

A near civil war has cost more than 22,000 lives in El Salvador in 19 months. A flimsy peace is reigning along the mainly mountainous frontier between Honduras, where the Government is right-wing, and Nicaragua, whose leaders are moving to the left.

Supporters of the overthrown and subsequently assassinated Nicaraguan dictator Anastasio Somoza are threatening to "invade" Nicaragua and factions of the Honduran military are said to favour helping them.

In Guatemala, territorially the third largest of Central America's five countries, violence, perpetrated by the ultra-right and the extreme left, has cost 25,000 lives in 15 years.

"You don't have a point of view if you want to stay alive," a man waiting at a bus stop in Guatemala City said.

President Carter's human rights policy encouraged the movements which favoured sweeping social changes in Central America. While Mr Carter was in the White House, 50 years of Somoza family rule were ended and a half century of military dominance was broken in El Salvador.

A move was made to return Honduras to civilian government. Elections are planned for November.

The region's ultra-conservatives have taken heart, however, from the Reagan Administration's comparative insensitivity to the cry for big



changes in most of Central America's social and economic structures.

Nevertheless, President Reagan has told President José López Portillo of Mexico that he takes seriously the Mexican argument that much needed economic aid to the region must not be tied to arms or subversion to United States ideology and must not automatically exclude any country.

After Spain's conquest of Mexico in 1520 what are now known as the states of Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Costa Rica and Nicaragua, along with the Mexican state of Chiapas, formed the captaincy general of Guatemala.

They became independent from Spain on October 15, 1821, and in 1823 the five Central American provinces declared themselves independent from Mexico, forming themselves into a federal republic called the United Provinces of Central America.

Troubles between liberals and conservatives led to the collapse of the federation in 1838. Many attempts have been made to restore the union, the closest being the founding of the Org-

anization of American States in 1951.

Through the OAS, the Central American Common Market was launched by Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua in December, 1960, and Costa Rica entered in July, 1962.

Yet it was disrupted by the war between Honduras and El Salvador in 1969 and has had a checkered existence since.

Low prices for agricultural products and high prices for oil, which only Guatemala has found in small amounts so far, have caused what one of Costa Rica's leading economists, Señor Fernando Marañón, calls "Central America's most serious economic problem in 30 years".

Señor Bernal Niehaus, the Costa Rican Foreign Minister, says: "The help and collaboration of all developed countries is fundamental if our country and the rest of the region are to find a solution to economic problems."

Señor Oscar Arias Sánchez, a Social Democratic Party leader in Costa Rica, puts it more strongly: "The United States has to make up its mind whether to supply trade today or arms tomorrow."

What this country needs is a revival of Blyth's spirit.



Against the strongest armada ever mounted by France, Italy and North America, Chay Blyth has won this year's Observer Transatlantic Race.

Against gale force winds, he and crewman Rob James have also crossed the Atlantic in record breaking time.

Congratulations from The Observer And Britain.



Poland uses war anniversary to soothe Russians

From Daria Trevisan, Warsaw, June 22

The fortieth anniversary today of the German attack on the Soviet Union in the Second World War, gave the Polish leadership a chance to reaffirm Poland's allegiance to Moscow and claim yet again that the Polish communists are determined to overcome the present crisis.

In a message to Mr. Brezhnev and his colleagues, Mr. Stanislaw Kania, General Wojciech Jaruzelski and Mr. Henryk Jablonski (representing the party, the Government and the state) emphasized the alliance and friendship of the two countries.

Referring to the present situation in Poland which is still causing serious anxiety in the Kremlin, they make a point of saying that since the plenary session of the Central Committee of the party, and all the "patriotic forces" are actively engaged in trying to surmount the crisis and open the way for the development of socialism.

The anniversary represents a welcome opportunity in Warsaw to underline Polish and Russian ties and to organize all sorts of solemn festivities.

The Polish-Soviet Friendship Society had a special meeting dedicated to promoting good relations and the occasion was used to emphasize the society's support for the leadership in its efforts to resolve the crisis by political means.

Simultaneously, General Jaruzelski, the Prime Minister who is also Minister of Defence, presided over a ceremony of the Polish General Staff which was attended by Soviet military representatives.

Such manifestations are clearly necessary at present and

Lennon case accused alters plea to guilty

From Michael Leeson, New York, June 22

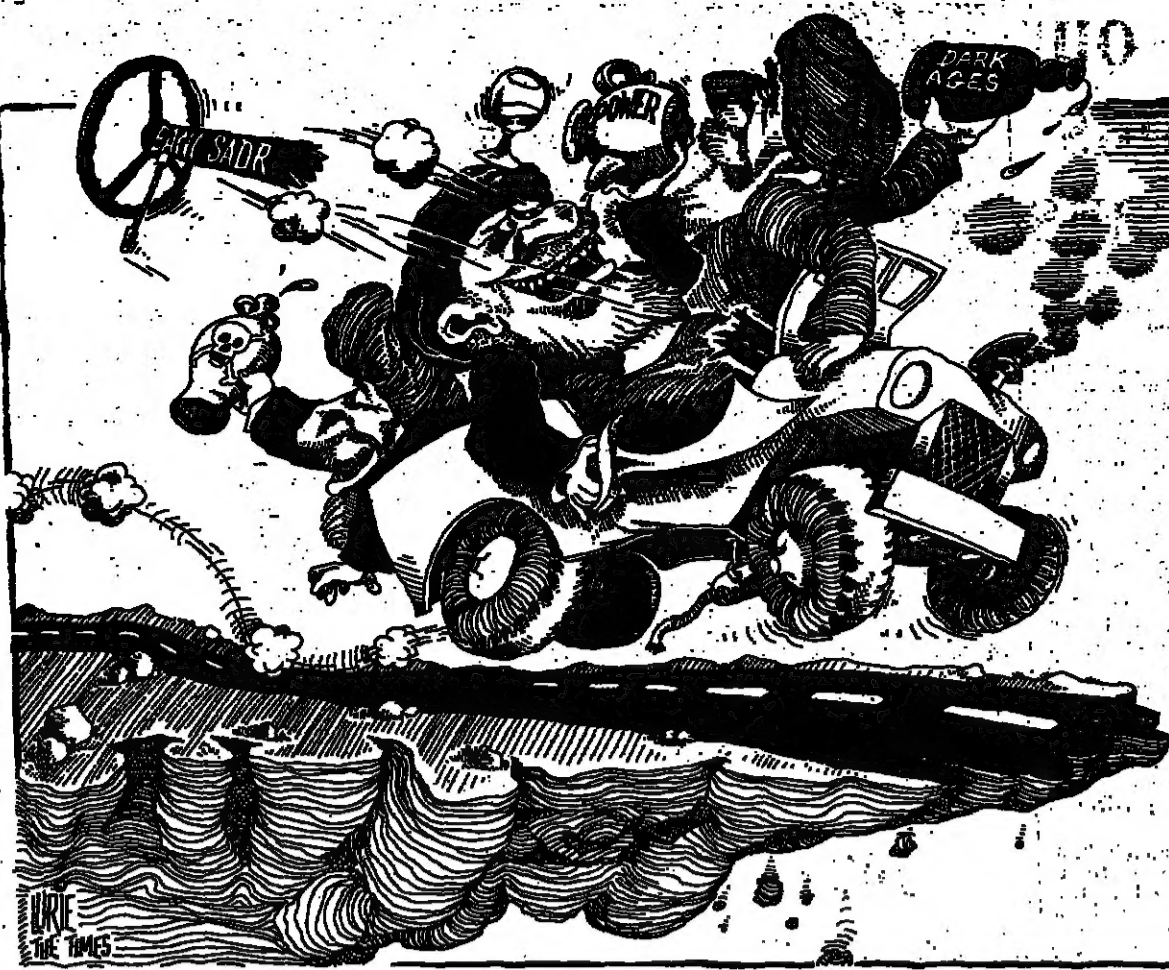
Mark Chapman changed his mind and pleaded guilty here today to murdering John Lennon, the former Beatle, on December 8. He told his lawyer that God had commanded him to switch from his original plea of not guilty by reason of insanity.

Mr. Jonathan Marks told the court in a 10-minute open session that he had advised Mr. Chapman to stick to his original plea. "But when God told him to plead guilty... I was effectively removed from the decision-making process."

Mr. Marks said the message from God had come on June 8 and again two days later. He told reporters that Mr. Chapman believed he had heard God's voice on the first day and believed the message was confirmed in religious literature he had been reading on the second.

"There is no doubt in my mind that he is insane," Mr. Marks said.

Mr. Chapman shot Mr. Lennon a few hours after getting his autograph. The killing took place outside the building where Mr. Lennon lived with Yoko Ono, his wife, and their son.



New faces at the assembly

From Ian Murray, Paris, June 22

When the new National Assembly meets for the first time on July 2, 205 of the 491 deputies will be taking their seats for the first time. This is largely because the Socialist Party won 162 seats, and the bulk of the winners have never served in Parliament.

There will be very slightly more women in the new assembly—26 instead of 21—and of these no fewer than 19 are Socialists. It is now the party's policy to ensure that at least one-third of its candidates are women, but that is something for the future.

The dozen of the house remains M. Marcel Dassault, founder of the French aircraft company which bears his name, and at 89 still one of the most formidable voices in French politics.

He will again be able to exercise the traditional right of the oldest member to preside over the assembly's first session and to pronounce the inaugural address, an ironic twist since his company is one of those due for nationalization under the Socialist programme.

He is a member of the Gaullist RPR, as is the youngest member of the house, M. Francois Fillon, a lawyer aged 27, who worked closely with M. J. Le Pen, the minister of Defence, who died last year.

The assembly will contain six former prime ministers: M. Michel Debré, M. Maurice Couve de Murville, M. Pierre Messmer, M. Jacques Chaban-Delmas, M. Jacques Chirac and M. Raymond Barre. There has been a heavy casualty rate among ministers of the last Government, with 13 falling to win a seat, notably M. Alain Peyrerie, the former Keeper of the Seals and Minister of Justice.

The Socialists had no problems in seeing their ministers elected. M. Lionel Jospin, the party's first secretary, won a seat for the first time, as did M. Gilbert Mittraud, the son of the President.

The Communists fared badly, with only M. Georges Marchais, their leader, and M. André Lajoinie, the head of their parliamentary group, from among their senior members succeeding in holding their seats.

Diplomatic balm for Israel

From Moshe Brillant, Tel Aviv, June 22

Mr. Saad Morada, the Egyptian Ambassador, continued in a broadcast on 'The Voice of Israel' today that his Government had rejected back an normalization with Israel after the bombing of the Iraqi nuclear reactor.

But, he said, this would not affect peace between the countries.

Mr. Morada said visits by trade delegations had been cancelled but meetings in Cairo to discuss the establishment of a multi-national force for Sinai after the Israeli evacuation were on schedule because they were part of the peace process.

Officials in Jerusalem privately expressed annoyance over the slow-down in normalization and at the criticism by Egyptian leaders.

However, no public statement has been issued. "If one assumes that Egyptians are going through the motions with heat up the situation," one official said.

A reporter suggested that the unwelcome discretion may have been inspired by the approaching elections since Mr. Begin's Likud Party has been branding peace with Egypt as the main achievement of the outgoing administration.

The Labour Opposition, however, picked up the issue: "We're left with the no-war part of the treaty... the Sinai evacuation is the great challenge, the great reward for Israel was to be the creation of human relationships in trade and culture," Mr. Abba Eban, the foreign affairs spokesman, said. "That part we're not getting."

Mr. Eban said President Sadat was under heavier Arab pressure than he admitted, not so much because of the attack but because Mr. Begin had invited him to a summit shortly before the attack and been so successful in reaching agreements which were secret, the import of which would become known soon.

This had forced Mr. Sadat to defend himself against charges of collusion and conspiracy.

Baghdad: The Speaker of the Iraqi Parliament today demanded sanctions by the Arab countries against the United States, including an oil boycott. The Iraqi News Agency said (UPI reports).

Mr. Naim Haddad, the Speaker, at the emergency meeting of the Arab Parliamentary Union asked for a confrontation because of the "complete American partiality on the side of the Zionist enemy."

Court allows suit against Nixon over phone tapping

Washington, June 22—An evenly split Supreme Court ruled today that former President Nixon may be sued for damages for allowing the tapping of an aide's home telephone.

The 4-4 decision, which allows the lower court ruling to prevail, also permits damage lawsuits against Mr. Nixon's assistants Dr. Kissinger and Mr. H. R. Haldeman, and against Mr. John Mitchell, the former Attorney-General. They had been sued in the Federal Court here by Mr. Morton Halperin, who was an aide on the staff of Dr. Kissinger during the Nixon Administration.

Mr. Halperin's home telephone was tapped for 21 months when

White House officials suspected him of leaking foreign policy and defence secrets to the press.

The court, while allowing his case to go to trial, did not settle the basic constitutional question of whether the President and his closest advisers are immune to such damages when they violate someone's constitutional rights.

In fact, the court announced that it would review another test case raising that issue directly. The new case involves a \$3.5m (£1.7m) suit against Mr. Nixon and two other aides filed by Mr. Ernest Fitzgerald, who lost his Pentagon job after criticizing overspending.

Washington Star.

Young bank raider had chauffeur

From Ivor Davis, Los Angeles, June 22

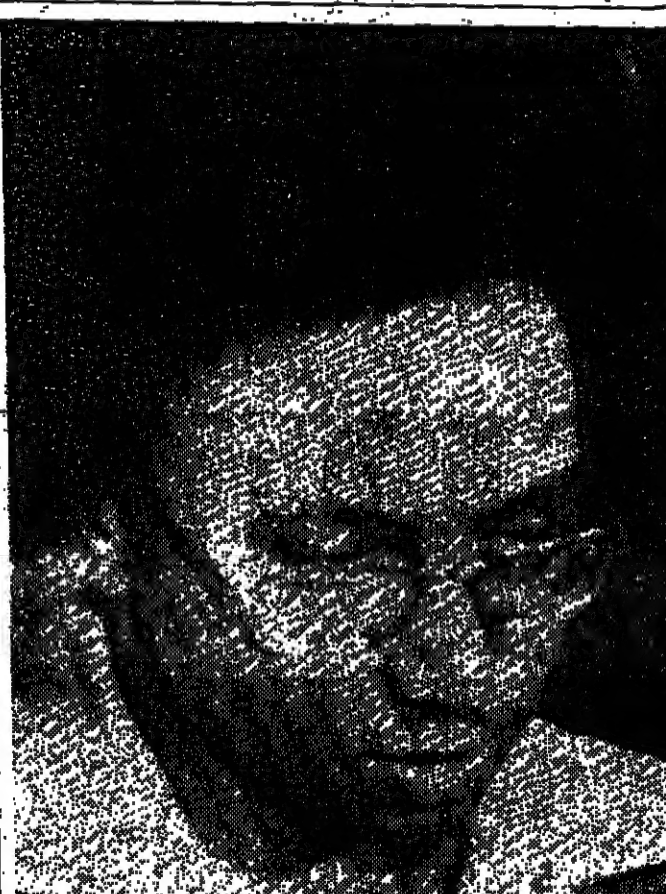
Police here had to admit that as bank robbers go, William Swanson operated with great style and panache despite his tender years. The suspected bandit is only 15 but in less than a month he hit 11 financial institutions, riding from bank to bank in a chauffeur-driven limousine.

This week, he will go on trial for a string of holdups that allegedly netted him about \$4,500.

Investigators say that the young black suspect related the limousine with a uniformed chauffeur and drove to various banks in southern California. At the teller's window, he pretended he had a weapon and came away with amounts ranging from several hundreds to several thousand dollars.

Detectives labelled him "the limousine bandit" and once when officers spotted the black Cadillac parked outside another bank they surrounded it. Swanson, in the bank at the time, spotted his reception party, calmly walked to a supermarket and called a taxi to take him home.

While officers were distracted, he ordered the cab driver to stop at two other banks at each of which he collected more loot. This time, officers pursued the taxi and arrested young Swanson who was sitting in the back seat literally red-faced and sweating: a security pack among the stolen currency had exploded splashing him with red dye and tear gas.



Wayne Williams: Accused of murder in Atlanta.

Atlanta suspect described as an intelligent loner

Atlanta, Georgia, June 22—Police here have refused to describe the black photographer, charged last night with murdering the last of the 28 young blacks killed in the Atlanta area over a 23-month period, as a suspect in the other murders.

Wayne Williams, aged 23, was accused of the murder of Nathaniel Cater, whose body was discovered on May 24 in the Chattahoochee River, west of Atlanta.

He had been questioned by police two days before Mr. Cater's body was found. He was taken into custody for further interrogation on June 3, but until last night authorities said there was not enough evidence to warrant an arrest.

Last week Mr. Williams sought injunctions against the media and police in an effort to escape the constant publicity that had surrounded him since his questioning.

Officials would not say what developments led to the decision to arrest Mr. Williams. Mr. Lewis Slaton, the Fulton County District Attorney, had previously said that evidence from fibres collected in a search of Mr. Williams's home, was not sufficient to charge him.

Although police refused to link Mr. Williams with the other murders, Mr. Slaton has said on several occasions that Mr. Cater's death was related to as

Mintoff fails in plea to the EEC

From Michael Horanby, Luxembourg, June 22

EEC foreign ministers turned a collective deaf ear here today to an appeal from Mr. Dom Mintoff, the Maltese Prime Minister, for more financial and commercial aid.

Mr. Mintoff, who had requested a meeting, repeatedly accused the Community of falling down on its obligations to Malta under the Treaty of Association signed in 1971.

"Not even the old gods of Olympus behaved with such careless condescension towards poor mortals," Mr. Mintoff declared. For five years, the EEC had rejected every suggestion put forward by Malta for raising living standards closer to European levels.

What Malta was after, the Prime Minister said, was "a special relationship which goes beyond the narrow of ordinary associate membership but does not claim for the foreseeable future the full rights nor accept the corresponding full obligations of a member as defined in the Treaty of Rome."

With an eye to the political opposition, Mr. Mintoff called for the EEC, Mr. Mintoff said it was clear to "any impartial observer how quickly Malta's economic breath would be snuffed out if the economic assistance partnership were to take full effect."

One of Mr. Mintoff's main complaints was over the interest rates charged by the EEC on loans from the European Investment Bank, which are based on the going market rate. The Maltese Government, he said, was being asked to accept loans at rates higher than 3 per cent.

The EEC told Mr. Mintoff that they had no more money in the kitty to subsidize interest rates.

Mr. Mintoff fared little better in a separate meeting with Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary. The Prime Minister asked Britain to clear Valletta grand harbour of wrecks from the Second World War and to restore unexploded ordnance from the island of Filfla, once used by the British as a gunnery range.

Lord Carrington said Britain would consider the removal of individual wrecks but that the clearance of Filfla was feasible at reasonable cost.

Democrats delay Reagan tax cut legislation

From Frank Vogl, Washington, June 22

House towards the end of July. "I think that is working at a feverish pace."

Committees of both houses must complete work on parts of the economic programme. Then Bills can be presented on the floors of each and conferences between Senate and House leaders can take place there after to reconcile differences.

Congressional leaders assured the White House in April that they planned to send economic Bills to the President for signing by early August. Now the timetable is slipping and the Republicans are becoming worried.

Senator Robert Dole, chairman of the Senate's finance committee, said Democrats in the House were trying to slow the passage of a tax Bill and work on it was not completed by the recess. It might be too late to implement tax cuts in 1981.

Mr. Daniel Rostenkowski, a leading Democrat and chairman of the House ways and means committee, angered Senator Dole, the White House and Republicans today by saying the Democrats had no complete work in Congress on a tax Bill before late September. He said he would like to get a Bill on the floor of the

Solar plane to try from Kent

Cornelles-en-Verzin, June 22—Mr. Paul Macready, inventor of a solar-powered aircraft, has decided not to attempt a flight across the Channel from France but will bring the craft to Britain for a flight the other way.

Margaret Clarke, one of Mr. Macready's assistants, said the Solar Challenger aircraft would be taken by van to RAF Manston, near Canterbury, tomorrow and the flight might be tried on one of the next two days.

She said strong seasonal northerly winds that cut the Solar Challenger's effective speed over the ground to about 2 mph when flying south to north were the reason for Mr. Macready's decision, and that the flight should be easier to make north to south.

The Solar Challenger made a training flight of more than four hours today, but Mr. Stephen Pearce, the pilot, was unable to take the planned flight at altitude up to 10,000 ft because the planned winds were too strong, organizers said.

The original plan called for the Solar Challenger to make the 180-mile cross-Channel flight at altitude up to 10,000 ft because it sinks 100 ft a minute when not in direct sunlight. It is powered by a 2.7 hp engine that runs on electricity from 15,000 solar cells on its wings.—UPI.

Socialists gain in Italian poll

Rome, June 22—The Italian Socialist Party made steady gains today in local elections involving nearly a quarter of the national electorate. The poll was held to determine the make-up of the next government.

The Communists kept control of Rome, but suffered setbacks in several areas, as did the Christian Democrats.

Nine million people were eligible to vote in 193 cities.

Final returns from Sicily gave the Christian Democrats 41.4 per cent of the vote, the Communists 20.7 per cent and the Socialists 13.6 per cent.

In regional elections in Sicily five years ago, the Christian Democrats took 40.8 per cent of the vote, the Communists 26.8 per cent and the Socialists 10.3 per cent.

The Socialists had hoped for a ripple effect from the landslide in the parliamentary elections in France, which could put them in a position to demand more Cabinet seats in the next Government.

Signor Giovanni Spadolini, the Prime Minister-designate, is trying to form a coalition of Christian Democrats, Socialists, Social Democrats, Liberals and his own Republican Party. He is expected to announce his Cabinet later this week.—AP.

Begin says missile crisis was screen for Iraq raid

From Christopher Walker, Tel Aviv, June 22

Israel radio reported today that Mr. Menachem Begin, the Prime Minister, had told members of the Knesset's foreign affairs and defence committee that his earlier harsh statements about the Syrian missiles in Lebanon had been intended to divert attention from the attack on Iraq's nuclear reactor on June 7.

He indicated that, at present, Israeli intelligence activities were not impeded by the presence of the missiles and that if they were he would immediately give the order to attack the sites. Mr. Begin said opposition to the missiles was not the five missile sites within two hours without suffering casualties.

The Prime Minister said the Christians in northern Lebanon had been informed that Israel could not come to their aid with soldiers as the Israelis had no intention of getting involved in a Vietnam-type conflict.

Speaking eight days before Israel's general election, Mr. Begin also told the committee that an American document existed which backed up information reaching Israel from various sources that the Iraqi nuclear reactor had been intended for military purposes.

The Government's view was that the Syrian missile crisis was a screen for Iraq's raid on the reactor.

Mr. Begin said that the four ministers hope to halt the violence in Lebanon, but government sources in Beirut see little prospect of a long-term peace formula. Along with Mr. Cheddi Klibi, the Arab League secretary-general, the ministers will be taking up where they left off at a session on June 8 in the Lebanese town of Beirut.

Political clash at last Unesco session

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, June 22

Politics and ideology returned with a vengeance at the closing session of the Unesco conference of the International Council for the Development of Information (ICDI).

The occasion for this ideological passage of arms this morning was an attempt by the Group of 77—representing the non-aligned countries—to secure a condemnation of the Israeli raid on the Iraqi nuclear plant. The move was instigated by Egypt.

Although the objective of creating a new 'world information order' defined by the Belgrade general assembly of the organization last year is charged with explosive political overtones, the conference had so far succeeded in concentrating on concrete means of helping the developing countries to achieve a more balanced flow of information and had sidestepped political confrontation.

The Western press came in for severe criticism from the Israeli and other delegates of the Group of 77 over its handling of the Iraqi initiative, and for its allegedly biased treatment of the work of the conference generally. It served to underline, in their view, the need to achieve the objectives to which the ICDI had been set up.

An article in the International Herald Tribune on Saturday, the Israeli delegate pointed out, referred to differences of opinion within the Group of 77 on the ideological overtones of the 'new world information order'. There were none, and all members of the group were dedicated to achieving this order, he added.

This inspired the Cuban delegate to declare: "If we give up our objective of creating this new world order, and of liquidating the so-called Marshall Plan in telecommunications, which my country has been condemning since 1978, we will be harassed even more than before by the forces of neo-colonialism in the field of information."

The Venezuelan delegate echoed these sentiments: "All the manoeuvres and distortions of the Western press are deliberately aimed at preventing a better balance and freer flow of information."

Mr. A. A. Krasikov, the Soviet delegate, attacked the group of seven industrialized Western countries in the council which, he claimed, had not shown any interest in the work of the council. One of them—the United States—had even said so openly.

"If the composition of the council had been different, and the problem before it had not been to set up a fund for mass communications, communications would have been readily forthcoming from them," he said. "Money was always available for the arms race. We socialist countries support the efforts of Unesco to develop mass communications, and the attacks of some western press organs are aimed at deterring us from it."

Mr. Krasikov said the council should think seriously about drawing up a journalist's code of ethics, which was one of the recommendations of the MacBride commission report last year.

The leader of the United States delegation to the conference, reacting to the draft paper condemning Israel, expressed regret that a group of member states should use the conference as a means of circulating a document which was outside the competence of its members.

It is futile and inappropriate to raise issues in Unesco which are dealt with in other international organizations," he said. "It is inconsistent with the constructive spirit which has so far prevailed in the conference."

The United States had supported the conference in the hope that it would focus on practical and concrete problems of developing countries' communications problems, he said. Today's discussion had strengthened the camp of the sceptics about IPDC in Washington.

THAI COUP LEADER RETURNS

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok, June 22

General Sanit Chulapim, who led the abortive coup in April, was greeted with flowers and applause when he returned to Thailand tonight. Some of his colleagues involved in the attempt were at the airport to welcome him back from Burma.

General Sanit, aged 60, fled there after the coup failed. The Rangoon Government said he could stay provided he did not engage in activities against the Thai Government.

Since then he and everybody else involved in the insurrection have been pardoned. At the airport he said he loved being back and expressed gratitude for the pardon. He and other senior army officers who had been involved would seek an early audience with the King to show their devotion to the monarchy.

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The fastest, easiest way to find the tastiest raspberry jam in town

Is there any use for a guide to good food shops in Britain? Susan Campbell believes there is and, after months of work and filing cabinets full of correspondence, she has published the second edition of such a work.

She aims to list "the sort of shops which people who care about food will go out of their way to visit". She ignores the big supermarket chains "not because I do not use them but because I've not yet found anyone in a supermarket who could give me the time of day, let alone any first-hand expert advice."

And she quotes Elisabeth Ayrton: "It is impossible to take too much trouble over finding shops which sell food of top quality."

So I put Mrs. Campbell, a few of her shops, and through them her book, to the test. Does food from good food shops actually taste any better than food from supermarkets? I recruited an expert panel to help me find out. Bravely Mrs Campbell herself agreed to come to the blind tasting I devised, with items from the shops she recommended to be pitted anonymously against similar products from the supermarket shelves.

The others in the panel were Shona Crawford Poole, *The Housewife*; Jane MacQuitty of *Wine and Food*, winner of two Glenfiddich wine and food writing awards, who came to us fresh from judging the *salon culinaire* in the Channel Islands; and Alan Davidson, ex-diplomat, author of *More than Food* and organizer of a September symposium in Oxford which will bring hundreds of food enthusiasts together to head 40 learned papers on the subject.

Now those golden girls have grown up and grown older. The side-effects of sun worship may not have been as widely publicized as problems with the Pill, but the effect of sun on skin is written out in wrinkles.

In America, warnings about excessive sunbathing are now issued by the experts, who talk openly about skin cancer and other sun-related problems. Since a whole section of the beauty industry has followed the sun, it is unwilling to relinquish a massive market and the emphasis is on caring for your suntanned skin.

In Britain, the situation is different. The sun shines so infrequently that our problem is rather how to cope with the sudden bursts of brilliance on a rare fine weekend or a brief summer holiday.

Protection

The message that sunshine is good for you still beams brightly from those beauty firms involved only in suntan preparations. The Australian firm of Piz Buia claims the credit for having "invented" the "sun protection factor system", which is now the keystone of all

the suntan preparations. Tanning is simply the body's natural defence against the sun's harmful rays, so it follows that the best way to protect your skin is to use a product at the start of exposure. A tough olive skin needs less protection than the traditional English rose. Thus most suntan preparations are now coded with protection factors, from two (the least protective) to eight, although specialist products go up to factor 15.

Bergasol make their product (based on the bergamot oil contained in citrus fruit as a natural aid to tanning) in an oil, gel, lotion or cream and in spray, facial, tanning gel (£3.30) in their extensive range. They, like the other leading French brand Ambre Solaire, realize that consumer demands of suntan products are increasingly sophisticated: than in the days when a dab of coconut oil went on protruding spots.

Ambre Solaire still sell their Original Sun Tan Oil (£2.25) with its distinctive fragrance reminiscent of the Côte d'Azur to an entire generation of suntaners. But now they have a wide range of other products, like their Sun Tan Milk (protection factor six for children and the fair skinned), and their newly introduced Tropical Milk (£3).

Cover up

The skin-care companies take a line exactly opposite to the suntan houses. The American Erno Laszlo says unequivocally that "the way to retain a good skin is to cover up from the sun". Their basic make-up is apparently 99 per cent sun-proof and the oil they offer to unwary sunbathers is still 40 per cent protective.

An anti-sun sport cream, designed to block out sun during active outdoor games, has been introduced by the French firm of Roc, who also say that the sun is "basically harmful to the skin". Skin-care specialists Vichy got only speak of "serious dermatological problems" for sunbathers, but actually discount many suntan products, particularly the oils, which they claim have a very low protection factor and are popular because "the reflection of sun on an oiled body gives the illusion of a deeper tan". Their own range has only milks or creams.

Ribbed cotton windcheater with striped lining £73 in black, red or grey. T-shirt £3, sky shorts £32, belt £3, all by Daniel Hechter of 105 New Bond Street, London W1. Just Jackie of Leicester, Scotts of Cheltenham, Polyvaries of Barnsley and Lucy Reynolds of Shrewsbury. Enquiries from a selection at Cassou 24 Rose Street, WC2. Disc necklace (worn on forehead) £8.50 by Adrien Mann from a selection at Selfridges and major department stores nationwide. Shell necklace £1.50, disc on leather thong necklace £9.95, both from Fenwick of Bond Street. Shell and raffia necklace £8.50 and mixed shell necklace £5.50, both by Adrien Mann, stockists as above.

Hair by Clifford at Michaeljohn

Make-up by Francine for Maxi

Photograph by Serge Krougloff

Photograph by Richard Imrie

Photograph by Richard Imrie

Photograph by Richard Imrie

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Photograph by Richard Imrie

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Photograph by Richard Imrie

Photograph by Richard Imrie

Photograph by Richard Imrie

pure fruit (35p) — "sickly goo... dreary... spat this out". But opinions divided about Fortnum and Mason's raspberry preserve (30p). "You would eat it along time before you thought of raspberry", admitted Mrs Campbell.

In strawberry conserve, Fortnum and Mason's (50p) disposed easily of "sickly sweet" offerings from Marks and Spencer (55p) and Sainsbury (49p for 12ozs) although the panel were divided about whether one of those was nastier than the other, and if so which.

In smoked fish the supermarkets, represented by Safeway, had little to offer. Their kippers (85p a lb) were left for dead by far weightier contenders from Harrods (£1.25 a lb, collecting one first preference) and Steve Hatt of Islington (£1.10 a lb voted top by three). Shona Crawford Poole showed some sympathy: "poor little female, just laid roe — no flesh to her," but Susan Campbell wrote: "Enough to put you off kippers altogether."

For Safeway's smoked trout the only comfort was that Alan Davidson preferred it to Steve Hatt's rather aggressively flavoured version (88p). The Safeway fish had been reduced to 49p for quick sale, but Susan Campbell described it as "not worth buying". With six pork pies to choose from, three of the panel plumped unerringly for Harrods (55p a ½ lb). Jane MacQuitty, though, went for Sainsbury's Natural Pork (24p, on special offer) with Marks and Spencer's Crisp Bake (also Alan Davidson's second choice, 27p, also on special offer) as runner-up.

In the book, Susan Campbell notes that matters of taste are not easy: "Pork pies given a skull and crossbones by one contributor tasted like ambrosia to me." So it was not altogether surprising that she dismissed Jane MacQuitty's choice as a "rotten pie", while Jane MacQuitty called hers "delicious".

Something similar happened with the sausages. No two people liked the same thing. This time Jane MacQuitty chose two of the good food shop entries, Cumberland from Paxton and Whitfield (£1.12 a lb) and Old English from Hobbs (same price) in that order. Susan

Campbell chose a third, Fortnum and Mason Supreme (£1.50), which Jane MacQuitty described as "just like eating breadcrumbs and fat". While Alan Davidson liked Susan Campbell's choice for St Michael Top Quality (92p a lb) as "possibly more unobtrusive" than Paxton and Whitfield's Tumbled (£1.10). This last Susan Campbell found "revolving". No conclusions could be drawn from that, save that people's taste in sausages can vary greatly.

In the Cheddar cheese section, Paxton and Whitfield won universal praise (£1.76 a lb), although Shona Crawford Poole actually preferred the less sharp flavour of samples from Harrods (£1.22) and Safeway (£1.08). Jane MacQuitty voted the Safeway second, and Alan Davidson noted with some surprise "how little difference there seemed to be". A third good food shop sample, from Mainly English (£1.60), impressed no one.

The supermarkets, or at least Marks and Spencer, pulled back in ham. St Michael's Italian Dried Cured (35p an ounce) was a lovely revelation to everyone except Shona Crawford Poole, who recognized it. "I buy it", she explained. Jane MacQuitty and Alan Davidson respectively found Marks and Spencer's other offering, Smoked Spiced Ham (72p a quarter) "delicious" and "excellent".

No one had a good word to say for Safeway's "waterlogged, fibreless" gammon ham (55p a quarter) or Sainsbury's Roast "ham-wetters" ham (50p), but then Susan Campbell wrote of Paxton and Whitfield's Bradenham (£1.10): "Apologies if this shop is in the Guide." Jane MacQuitty claimed to detect a strong taste of parmesan cheese about this hard, dry and salty ham, suggesting the two had been stored together.

Paxton and Whitfield may just redeem their place in the book, because Susan Campbell voted their York ("it would still be nicer if sliced neat") 80p a quarter equal with the Marks and Spencer prosciutto. The others were less enthusiastic. Jane MacQuitty said it was "dried-up and over-cooked".

Next came the morning's main surprise. Everyone put one of the cheapest pâtés, Safeway's pepper and mushroom from the delicatessen counter (25p a quarter, on special offer) at the top of the list. Jane MacQuitty said it was the only one of the seven she would eat, and all the others agreed it was good. Susan Campbell just saved herself by saying that Hobbs' chicken and brandy pâté (at £2.95 a pot) was good, but the others did not agree. "Tastes more like corned beef than anything else", said Jane MacQuitty, and Shona Crawford Poole complained of "nasty, funny spices and anchovy".

That just left as a *bonne bouche* a small class for assorted trifles, in which Clare's hand-made (£2.60 a half-pound) had a narrow win over Marks and Spencer (£1.65). Jane MacQuitty actually preferred the latter, and Susan Campbell admitted they looked better.

The overall result was a points win, not a knockout, for the good food shops over the supermarkets. Very probably the guide's usefulness would have been more clearly vindicated if it had been logistically possible to gather samples outside London. Yet clearly one could not rely on getting satisfactory food just because the shop supplying it features in the book, and also, of course, the supermarkets were not completely disgraced.

Perhaps the saddest lesson is the one pointed by Jane MacQuitty. "All in all, this rather sorry selection does not say much for either our supermarkets or our delicatessen. The French housewife can easily resort to the corner shop without damaging her reputation as a good cook. The British sadly cannot, but must shop around or make it herself."

The book may help in the hunt for quality foods, or at least in locating the more elusive ingredients if we are driven to home cookery. May it sell well, be used with caution and provoke a lot more reports from an increasingly discriminating public.

'Guide to Good Food Shops', edited and compiled by Susan Campbell, Macmillan, £4.95.

ERIC HILL



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Beach beauty by Suzy Menkes

Have you noticed the fading of an all-over tan?

Running the entire gamut of products from the total block to the Self-Action tanning cream is the theme of the new Lauder sun collection. But significantly the newest product is the Sun Cover Creme (£5), which offers maximum protection (factor 15). It would be a heavy-duty firm that announces now that it was encouraging an all-out tan.

Elizabeth Arden acknowledges the continuous urge to "turn brown with the Progressive Tan range of factor-coded products." Charles of the Ritz have an Ultra Sun Block cream (£4.75) with a protection factor of 22.8.

Having studied the claims and tried out the products at best one can under leaden skies, I conclude that the best sun-protection factor is common sense. It is crucial to go away armed with a selection of products to lubricate face and body, to protect sensitive areas like nose and knees that catch the sun and to understand your own skin type and know what it will tolerate. A moisturizing after-sun lotion will help to prevent dryness (but you will still peel if you have burnt).

Nothing can prevent your tan's fading once you are out of the sun, although you can apply products that work chemically to retain the illusion of a tan. It is wise to buy all your products from one range, rather than mixing creams on one skin area.

I shall spend my own holiday under a shady tree, tanning slowly as nature intended.

Taking cover from the sun in Paul Horst's Australia swimwear £28.50, gold on black, blue, khaki, brown or orange, from Howie, 138 Long Acre, London WC2. Way in at Harrods, Knightsbridge, Harvey Nichols of Knightsbridge, Teumart at St Christopher's Place, W1, and Lucinda Byre of Liverpool, Manchester, Chester and Blackpool.

Apricot-print kimono £34.50 in assorted prints by Paul Horst from Howie, Teumart and Harvey Nichols. Stimulated coral necklace £24.50 by West from main department stores. Shell necklace £7.95 from Fenwick of Bond Street.

Hair by Paul at Daniel Galvin

Make-up by Mary Lou for Harriet Hubbard Ayer using their tinted moisturizing day cream to protect the skin from the sun's harmful rays and pearly waterproof eyeshadows.

Photograph by Richard Imrie

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Photograph by Richard Imrie



Dressing up to a suntan means picking the boldest jewelry and strong make-up to set against simple summer clothes.

The beehives and bangles of high summer come straight from a picture postcard vision of a tropical isle. Shell necklaces as large as a big bone beads and the obligatory string of stick coral or shark's teeth, all look splendid against a pale T-shirt and a bronzed skin.

Make-up artist Francine used three different shades of green and a dark green eyeliner pencil to give a sense of the watery depths to our model's eyes. Using cosmetics from the Maxi African Sands range, on a No-shine foundation, she also used three different blushers to shade the cheeks, from a tawny shade to a pinky blusher.

Although most women have now got the hang of using a battery of brushes to apply colour, few realise that mixing and blending colours is essential for the current fashionable face.

This summer's beauty ranges have been developed to go with the safari and copper colours of clothing. The leading cosmetic houses have done a lot of the work for us, by producing two, three or even four pan eye colours which are meant to be used together.

The system of blending or smudging colours equally to women who have abandoned the wider African image in favour of the romantic white ruffles of the (royal) English rose.

Pre-tan product

Also called self-tan. Gives the look of suntan but does not generally contain a sunscreen. Used for cosmetic reasons on celery white limbs or fill in white strap patches. Must be used in the sun in conjunction with screening creams.

Sun protection

Products filter the sun's more harmful ultra-violet rays. They come in oils, creams or milks and are what we describe as suntan preparations. Today's ranges are almost all coded by the "factor" system.

Sun screens

Also known as sun block. Creams as above, but designed to block completely the sun's harmful (and therefore tanning) rays. The most effective of these creams are available at pharmaceutical counters, although a few of the most comprehensive suntan ranges have them. They must be used frequently to be effective.

Suntan encouragers

Also known as speed-ups. Products supposed to encourage a tan by speeding up the natural melanin production of the skin. Mostly in gel or oil form with low protection factor.

After Sun

Body moisturizers designed to discourage peeling. But most do not have a burn or soothe agent, for which you will need a pharmaceutical cream. Boots sell Solarcaine cream, lotion and aerosol spray designed to give instant local relief for sunburn.

THE ARTS

Galleries

Astonishment and delight in Renaissance riches

Objects for a "Wunderkammer"

Colnaghi

Important Italian Baroque Paintings 1600-1700

Mattheisen Fine Art

Art as Decoration

Heim Gallery

Twentieth Century British Paintings and Watercolours

Spink

Leslie Hurry, Artist of Dream and Theatre

Browse and Darby

Julian Trevelyan

Holsworthy Gallery

When the more traditionally-minded of the West End galleries decide to show off, as seems to happen these days, by some kind of unspoken agreement, around the middle of June each year, the result is likely to be spectacular: at the moment it is as if much of the St James's Bond Street area has been turned, to misappropriate a term from the title of Colnaghi's show, into one big Wunderkammer, where the riches of the Renaissance and after are displayed like the contents of so many jewel caskets, snapped open with a flourish for our astonishment and delight.

The introduction to the lavish catalogue which accompanies Colnaghi's *Objects for a "Wunderkammer"* exhibition (until July 31) raises, naturally, the question of what exactly the term means. Basically it stood for a collection of remarkable objects, the beautiful, the rich and the strange competing on almost equal terms for attention. In this sense, as in others,

the Wunderkammer was the precursor of the modern museum, where heavy, if an important factor, in the means the sole criterion for inclusion. Renaissance princes and their successors up to the beginning of the eighteenth century required various things of their collections. First and foremost, that they should surprise by fine excess: that they should be rare and valuable and impressive, dramatizing the idea of power and position by demonstrating that their owners could easily possess much beyond the reach of lesser mortals. But also, to be fair, that they should, if only incidentally, extend and illuminate man's knowledge of man and the world about him.

One did not need to be rich, of course, to fulfil this latter function: John Evelyn's cabinet of curiosities, now in the Geffry Museum, attests to much. But, to own most of the objects on show at Colnaghi, you would have had to be very rich indeed. Even the simple curiosities, such as the rhinoceros horn held up by three gilt bronze harpies, had the magic of rarity in the West and tended to be displayed with maximum ostentation. Religious significance, such as attached to a fragment of St Joseph's cloak, often seemed to take second place to the magnificence of its setting — in this case a splendid reliquary of lapis-lazuli, rock crystal and silver gilt, made for Pope Alexander VII and attributed to Antonio de Amicis Moretti. Sheer visual splendour of materials, as in the oval bowl of

heliotrope from the Milanese workshop of Ottavio Miseroni (later in the collection, not surprisingly, of William Beckford) counted for much, as did the innumerable rings and pendants and caskets and time-keeping devices, for even more.

And beauty? That is, there, too, though usually an intricate, hard-won beauty rather than the simple, inevitable-seeming sort. For, that one must look mainly to the oriental objects, particularly the porcelains and small carvings in semiprecious stones, prized no doubt by their early owners for exoticism rather than aesthetic value. (Incidentally, the "adjacent show," *Gods, Gardens and Elephants* Colnaghi Oriental until July 17, is well worth a few minutes of your time.) But some of the waxes, medallions and small bronzes like the *Boys Playing Scommazzone*, once the collection of Louis XIV, are beautiful by any standards you care to apply.

Nor were paintings, if not necessarily the central interest of such collections, automatically excluded, as Erienne de la Haye's painting of the *Kunstkammer* of Prince Vladimir Sigmundovich Vasa reminds us, mixing up in a happy jumble Rubenses and Breughels with metalwork, jewelry and orientalia. I suppose the paintings in the show *Important Italian Baroque Paintings* (until July 31), are mostly a deal too important to have decorated a Wunderkammer, many must have been designed for large churches or stately halls. However, even here there are exciting touches of intimacy: a lovely little landscape panel by Cecilio Bravo, for example, which has about it an almost Watteau-like touch of romantic melancholy and magic, or two pairs of still-lives, one by an anonymous Caravaggesque artist and the other by Mao of c. 1625.

Still-life and pure landscape played a lesser, and still insufficiently explored, role in Italian Baroque painting. One of a number of the paintings on show occupy themselves, surprisingly, with the more bloodthirsty episodes of the Bible and the lives of the saints (anyone who supposes that the present popularity of the violent horror film is a particularly novel and therefore disturbing trend should look here for a corrective insight). We encounter, in rapid succession *Death of the Virgin* (Dolci), *Salome with the Head of John the Baptist* (Matta Preti), *Jael cheerily driving a tent-peg into Sisera's ear* (Guidoboni), the scourging and mocking of

Christ, and more stages in the martyrdom of St Sebastian than you could aim an arrow at, though the most discreet of them, Giovanni Lanfranco's *St Sebastian Carried to Heaven by Three Angels*, merely alludes to the facts of the case by making a putto carry two arrows which, in other circumstances, might be no more than Cupid's darts.

Occasionally these paintings turn to less startling subjects, and when they do the effects can be superb. There is, for instance, a very fine Rossa, *A Landscape with Travellers Asking the Way*, which aims to charm us by its atmospheric grace rather than giving us a trisson. Of pleasing horror, Guerrier's *Return of the Prodigal Son* emphasizes the emotional nature of the meeting with a restless composition reconciling, though only just, contrary movements within the frame. And Creche's *God Creating the Animals* presents God as a kindly, unthreatening presence surrounded by a glad and delightfully various creation. Such pictures are still easier for us to take than the sentimental/sensational excesses of the baroque, but a series of illuminating exhibitions in London during the last two years has been persuading us, slowly but surely, to habituate ourselves even to these.

Heim, this year, in its show

Art as Decoration (until August 28), explicitly aims at the lighter, easier-to-take end of the artistic spectrum. Most of the paintings and sculptures shown date from between the beginning of the eighteenth century and the end of the nineteenth. Decorative canvases clearly meant for over-doors or to be inset somehow into rococo or neo-classical rooms evoke the amours of Zeus, propose allegorical scenes like *Genius Urging On the Virtuous Prince*, or set nymphs and shepherds in arcadian landscapes, hunters among decorative scroll-work. The major discovery of the show is John Francis Rigaud's *Constance Rescuing Herself from Her Father*, recently identified from a related engraving in Macklin's *British Poets*; the most provocative works are a pair of overripe allegories (of Rome and Venice, the latter particularly fierce-looking female) by Julius Victor Berger, disciple of Makart and lavish in the use of gold leaf and other naïve but effective devices to impress. Are they more than kitsch? Maybe not, but at least they stay in the mind, like one of those melodies you despise but cannot help humming in moments of abstraction.

In art it never rains but it pours, so it was only to be expected that my remarks a month ago about the neglect of

the 1940s Neo-Romantic painters would instantly require a few footnotes. In Spink's summer show of *Twentieth Century British Paintings and Watercolours*, (until July 7), there are, among many earlier delights — a fine Innes-like Derwent Lees, a stunning Lavery landscape, *The Spanish Coast from Tangier* — a haunting early Keith Vaughan, *Miners in a Narrow Seam*, and three wholly admirable John Minton: a crisp and attractive oil, *A Young Man Seated*, and two of his pen, ink and watercolour landscapes, of which *View from Coleman's Hatch, Sussex* (1945) has the sort of mystical, inward intensity of response to the English scene which these latterday followers of Palmer had a unique ability to summon up.

At Browse and Darby is a small but surprisingly comprehensive tribute to Leslie Hurry, artist of *Dream and Theatre* (until Saturday) which includes drawings and set designs from nearly all his major productions (only Helpman's *Hamlet* ballet is missing) as well as a selection of his less familiar independent watercolours. At his best, Hurry was a fine draughtsman with a shimmering, slightly surreal sense of dramatic occasion: his designs for ballet, opera and costume play are

among the best to emerge from the 1940s, a decade which seems increasingly like a golden age of British theatre design. And unlike many such, they stand up triumphantly as self-defining works of art, with no need of support from fading memories of how it all looked on stage. And at Holsworthy (until July 11) is a show of recent work, paintings and coloured etchings, by Julian Trevelyan. My inclusion of him among the Neo-Romantics seems to have raised a few eyebrows, but at the time he was undoubtedly very close to them in style and subject-matter. You would never know it now, as he has continued to evolve almost unrecognizably. These most recent works are in a neo-primitive style which seems, especially when the subjects are sailing ships or seashore scenes, to owe a lot to Alfred Wallis and his more sophisticated admirers, such as Ben Nicholson and Christopher Wood. These works are painted in bold, simple and sometimes not very appealing colours with the emphasis on rather harsh blues and greens: they show a now senior painter (Trevelyan is 71) who is not afraid to do something different. If we like them, fine; if not, well, there are more important things than that in a painter's life.

John Russell Taylor

Books

Bath

A Social History 1680-1850

By R. S. Neale

(Routledge & Kegan Paul, £18)

The fundamental defect of this long, expensive book is that it is dull, something that no historical work, least of all one about Bath, need or should dare to be. It is also contemptuous of received practice in respect of many punctuation and grammar, an attitude which undermines the reader's confidence that the author knows what he is about.

What makes a history dull? Professor Neale has made it so by presenting us with a great many statistics and drawing inferences from them which, as he says himself many times, often cannot be substantiated because of lack of corroborative evidence. He provides rows and rows of commodity prices, and toll-gate receipts, and average wages, and court records, and bednights, and the like. He even gives twice over the same list of titled folk attending social functions. But he fails to supply the information — comparisons with other cities, other times — that would give these figures some meaning.

Nor is that all. It seems that a social history has to have some sort of message for today, which consideration leads Professor Neale into distractions about capitalism, the nature of property, and the origins of the class struggle which would have made any self-respecting 18th-century artisan drop his hod, and, with a scotlock depending from his collar, and run for the nearest inn. At one point, if I have understood him aright, the author is implying that Bath's own outbreak of Gordon Riots against the Poor Law is about Popery at all. He refers repeatedly to something called "the social organization of space" (how reminiscent of Le Corbusier's deadly machine in which to live!) and to the "anomie" of the developing market society. I must say, as one who is always interested in learning something new about Bath, it leaves me pretty cold.

Let me take some particular cases where I find the argument inadequate. The suggestion that, because Ricardo found *The Wealth of Nations* in a Bath bookshop, Bath might be regarded as having given a lead in economic life is too far-fetched to stand. The assertion that in Bath "income was very unevenly distributed" (no doubt) is followed by the satisfying disclaimer that "there is no way of knowing what share of this high average income was retained by the various social groups" (Why not? You mean it may not have been very uneven after all?).

Similarly, it does not add much to say that Ralph Allen was "an obscure boy of 17" (Hill, I was once an obscure boy of 17 myself); while the remark that John Wood the elder "was probably the son of a mason and a local boy who became a surveyor" needs a lot of working out. The career of a certain Mr Marchant is presented (page 56) as the case history of a typical local apprentice; but later (page 70) it is asserted that his experience was not that of most apprentices.

If all this is carping, I can only say that the further one reads the more one carps. I am surprised that Professor Neale has found so little useful social straw to make his bricks — far less for instance, than Bryan Little or Sir John Summerson concentrating on Bath's architectural aspects more than 30 years ago. The lengthy disquisition on the financial dealings of the Duke of Chandos, unearthed in the Huntington Library, San Marino, California, might have been relevant, since the duke was John Wood's patron; but although California must have been a long way to go, in practice the relevance is not clear: the disquisition is simply a discussion.

Bath, to me, will never be "an existential expression of the economic and social structure of society and of its dominant ideology" I cannot see it in terms of the sociological jargon which permeates this study to the end. The book becomes more readable once Professor Neale reaches the 19th century and is able to draw on the local newspapers for his material; but at no time does it present any facet of a society, or a picture of one fraction so telling, or I suspect so accurate, as any of the single short chapters of *Pickwick* devoted to that city. I have just read them again to check. They are worth a dozen social histories. Remember how Mr Winkle got shut out of his lodgings in Royal Crescent in his nightgown when the door blew shut. Or Sam Weller's soiree? Bednights, forsooth.

Adam Fergusson

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Concerts in London

Mahler perched on a tightrope of suspense

Philharmonia/Ozawa

Festival Hall/Radio 3

Mahler, in his second symphony, had as much to say about silence as about sound. This is what Seiji Ozawa would have had us believe on Sunday in his unorthodox, often self-regarding, but unusually compelling interpretation of the work.

It was a performance whose minute attention to acoustic detail — realized through often exceptionally slow tempi, long, drawn pauses and climaxes and his galvanizing ability to draw the finest and most concentrated chamber playing from each section of the orchestra — was always perched on a tightrope of suspense, be it in emotional effect or, indeed, as to whether his risks would pay off.

The first movement march almost lost momentum, its lyrical passages still as in a mumb-lament; but how much more interesting in contrast the shrieking torrent of its climax. Here, as in the last movement, built with the same tense, long stretches of fine-etched sound and silence, the points of climax went straight to the pit of the stomach, which, in Mahler, is surely where they should go.

Because of the nature of the

first movement, the second seemed, fascinatingly, much less at odds with it than Mahler once feared. On Sunday its sweet recollections seemed frozen almost into immobility: this was no melancholy remembrance but rather a paralyzing sorrow, articulated through strong playing of remarkable unanimity and conviction. And this, in turn, had its effect on the Scherzo, its own dance the more bizarrely distorted, its very pulse twisting and staggering in Mr Ozawa's hands.

Jessye Norman and Mr Ozawa played over-indulgently into each other's hands in an "Ulrich" of unnecessarily exaggerated expression: Miss Norman's richly sensuous, highly dramatic projection, though powerfully moving in the last movement, oppressed the simplicity of its prelude.

No chorus could, perhaps, have been better cast for Ozawa's last movement: the Philharmonia, who constantly take the prize for the most magically sustained "Aufsteigen", sang with a fine control of volume, pitch and texture, matched in quality and expressiveness by both the orchestra and by Miss Norman in her richly eloquent "O gläubige Sheila Armstrong was the soprano soloist.

Hilary Finch

Rhythmic liberties taken in pursuit of expression

Ilan Rogoff

Queen Elizabeth Hall

Devoting his recital to Brahms on Sunday afternoon, the London-domiciled Israeli pianist Ilan Rogoff, was deeply aware of the warm romantic heart hidden beneath the composer's forbidding exterior. Though in pursuit of expression he took rhythmic liberties less than stylish in so staunch an upholder of classical tradition, it was still difficult to remain untouched by playing so personally involved.

The F minor Sonata was of course written when Brahms was scarcely out of his teens, long before his public attack on all progressivism deemed by him to be wearing their hearts on their sleeves. But even this ardent, youthful outpouring, with its frequently requested tempo changes, needed a more firmly coordinated first movement.

The opening was splendidly majestic — that is, until the new *first and best* chorale theme, into which Mr Rogoff plunged at the double (or very nearly). Conversely, in the

development he allowed rhythmic tension to sag. The ensuing love song was done with intimate delicacy and poetry; but the sonata's second slow movement, the sorrowful *Rückblick*, was too elastic for the ominously reiterated rhythmic motif in the bass to tell.

Though accident-prone, Mr Rogoff found the Scherzo's strength, but in the finale again too often relied on tempo change for characterization, with a recklessly fast coda.

In the three Intermezzi, Op 117, he caught the essential note of emotion recollected in tranquillity. Possibly in the first in E flat, the broad song theme was insufficiently differentiated from the stealthy mystery of the middle section; the third in C sharp minor was particularly beautiful for shapely continuity of melodic flow whatever the surrounding texture.

The two Op 79 Rhapsodies chosen to end, though startlingly vivid in their mood contrasts, again revealed Mr Rogoff's over-reliance on tempo change to achieve his ends, with the turbulent first subject of No. 1 taken too fast for texture not to clot.

Joan Chissell

Opera

Ideal conception and performance for midsummer

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Glyndebourne

The return of Benjamin Britten's music to Glyndebourne, after almost 35 years, must have been plotted with even more care than advance publicity admitted — the perfect Britten opera for this Sussex country-side setting, opening on Midsummer Day itself. Sir Peter Hall and John Bury had directed and designed it with a full awareness of everything in Shakespeare's play, and Britten's setting of it, and an extra quality that can only be described as stage magic: the living face of enchantment.

The cast is an international one, a Romanian Tytania, a Dutch Theseus, a Swedish Bottom, among native English-speakers, and the top cast is clearly and meaningfully enunciated, as well as sung, as anybody could wish.

The conductor is Bernard Haitink, a dedicated Britten interpreter of many years standing, who drew subtleties of colour and inflexion from the score, for example in the prelude to the second act, that I have heard in no other performance.

You may have read, in our arts supplement last Friday, how John Piper, the first designer of this opera, resolved to exclude green from his palette. So does Bury in this production, for the good reason that, even on Midsummer Night, nature's shades are black and white. Puck's hair is the only colour to be seen — until sunrise in the third act when the forest resumes its natural green, though the floor remains black glass, reflective and usefully slippery.

Bury's forest is something wondrous to a dendrophile, the leaves on the trees perfectly detailed, the branches properly shaped, the quivering in a breeze, even the spectral illusion that trees sometimes move about — here they literally do so, because each is supported by an actor. When Hall wants the stage cleared, off they go, sideways or upwards.

Tytania's slumber, first alone, later with translated Bottom (any animal-lover would fall for the ass's head devised by Bury), always threatens to clutter a stage of modest size, still more at the end of the second act, when she is joined by two pairs of lovers. Hall dispenses of the problem with a trap door through which the fairy queen and her assinine paramour descend, leaving the acting area clearer.

Puck's misleading of the rival lovers is ingeniously staged, first with quantities of flowers everywhere, secondly by lifting him on an aerial bough, from which he mouths the answers which another sings from elsewhere. Puck, in Britten's opera, is



Above: James Bowman (Oberon) and Damian Nash (Puck); below: Ileana Cotrubas (Tytania) with Curt Appelgren (Bottom).



not a treble choirboy, but an actor, agile, and strong in diction, a tough boy in personality. Damian Nash, who takes it here, is short, acutely expressive, almost the star of the show: I wish him a good career in the theatre. James Bowman's Oberon is well known by now, more convincing here than ever, and he has a paragon

queen in Ileana Cotrubas, whose vocal artistry fits her music and enhances it to exquisite purpose. The costumes are all Elizabethan, courtly for the fairies, bourgeois for mortals, even Theseus and Hippolyta. I was surprised that a log fire was needed on that Midsummer Night, for the theatrical enter-

tainment and its spectators. Britten's setting of *Pyramus and Thisbe* used to cause me acute embarrassment, so clumsy did the parody sound. Hall and Haitink, between them, show that it can look and sound acceptable, even enjoyable — that is, a major triumph for this production. Another is the treatment of

the four lovers, as Oberon finally causes them to become. Often they have looked, and their music sounded, stiff and unnatural. Here Cynthia Buchanan and Felicity Lott (the latter a convincing "maypole"), Ryland Davies and Dale Duesing, not only make their characters perfectly credible, but sing their music to genuine admiration: the canonic quartet, "And I have found Lyssander" (or whomever) "like a jewel", as lovely as anything in the score, still clinched the scene; but on a loftier level, because even the quarrel had brought the musical invention out of the doldrums, and sounded like strong dramatic stuff.

Hall's rude mechanicals are smartly handled, not completely individualized, though Patrick Power's Flute is at once clown-headed and brilliant, and Curt Appelgren makes hay in the sunshine with Bottom the weaver, just the voice, and just the personality, genial, ambitious, tall, a keen mimic, a grand comedian. If anybody tells you that opera is not a branch of theatre, send them to this show, as complete a Shakespeare production as you might see anywhere, and set to mastery music as well.

William Mann

The pride that keeps hope alive in Ulster

Louis Heren looks at the other, more relaxed face of Belfast and sounds a cautious note of optimism for the cause of peace in the Province.

Northern Ireland began at Heathrow's Gate 49, where seven security men and women thoroughly searched every bag and frisked every passenger. Two hours later I was searched for a second time before being allowed to enter the much-bummed Europa Hotel in Belfast.

I was frisked for a third time in so many hours when entering the city centre. Each approach road has a gate manned by police, and as in a medieval walled city the gates are closed at night.

I have lived and worked in many cities under threat or siege, but this was disconcerting because the shops had familiar names such as Boots and Marks and Spencer. The shoppers could have been in London's Oxford Street, except that Northern Ireland has more than its fair share of good-looking women.

A foot patrol of the Ulster Defence Regiment with FN rifles at the ready gave me what only can be described as a keen look, but the shoppers appeared to be oblivious of them and the armoured car driving slowly down the street.

Later I went up the Falls Road, a scene of many riots, to the Milltown cemetery where IRA men are buried in a special plot like national heroes. The headstones bore names such as Lennon, Fox and Kelly, and the grave of Bobby Sands, the hunger striker, was covered with wreaths.

The Roman Catholic enclave was daubed with graffiti: *Support the hunger strikers and until the last prisoner is free we are all imprisoned.* Small children played on the trolley under a sign boasting of the murder of Lord Mountbatten.

The Ballymurphy housing estate, an IRA stronghold, looked as if it had been fought over too many times for its inhabitants to try keeping up appearances. The little front gardens were mostly untended, and rubbish blew about the entry ways.

Opposite the cemetery was a



Shopping can be a pleasure in Belfast precincts such as this. Traffic is barred as part of the anti-terrorist security measures.

police station, a high building completely encased in steel netting. It looked like a beleaguered fort in a futuristic movie after alien forces had landed on Planet Earth.

The next day Mr Humphrey Atkins, the Northern Ireland Secretary, spoke to local business leaders about the province's bad image. "I should be less than realistic if I were not to acknowledge that events in recent times, as reported worldwide on television, radio and by the newspapers, have made our task more difficult when we try to persuade investors to come here."

I spent the morning at the campus of Queen's University with faculty members equally upset about Northern Ireland's bad image; or, as they had it, the false image spread by television and journalists who got no farther than the Europa bar. These conflicting perceptions of the province were the main reason for my visit and I gave

them my immediate impressions.

One faculty member said the Falls and Shankill roads were not typical; apart from a few other areas in East Belfast, Londonderry and along the border, the province was as quiet as England and more law-abiding than the United States and other countries he could mention. Another said that Belfast's city centre was now a more enjoyable shopping area than most because the security forces kept out through traffic as well as possible terrorists.

They seemed to agree that the IRA were on the run. All would be well if the English shed their sense of historical guilt and firmly announced that Northern Ireland was an integral part of the United Kingdom.

Northern Ireland is a green and pleasant land, as I rediscovered after a few days of wandering; pleasanter than the Republic because the

villages do not look like rural ghettos. The small towns and villages suggest stability and permanence; they are less cluttered with cars and billboards than those in England, and there is no reason to look more peaceful.

Belfast is a utilitarian town, a little the worse for wear, but within easy commuting distance are places such as Crawfordsburn, as attractive as any stockbroker's retreat in London's gin and jaguar belt. Bangor and Hillsborough are handsome small towns. Ideal places to bring up a family.

I went down to the border country, or bandit country as it is sometimes known, by bus. The Ulsterbus service is efficient and it was like travelling in an English rural bus of days gone by. It was impossible to associate incipient violence with the old age pensioners chatting with the driver and mothers telling their children to wipe their nose. Even on the border, Newry, the scene of

much ghastly violence, looked like a friendly market town.

It is easy to understand why the Protestant majority, and perhaps some of the Catholic minority, resent its bad image abroad. It is a friendly place, a mixture of geniality and Scotch or North Country politeness. I am told that some of the more fundamentalist Protestants can be dour, but the Irishness, or what the people of the island, is evident in both religious communities.

Calvinism has closed the pubs on Sunday, but they are open all day during the week and are used as day centres by the unemployed. A well known politician, who I suppose must remain nameless, and he suggested a bar. I was expected to drink Old Bushmills from 3 to 5 pm, but the conversation was as good as any heard in Dublin.

Northern Ireland can also be pleasantly old fashioned. Despite unemployment, the streets are clean, the houses are scrupulously clean, with polished windows. These are the hopes of the respectable poor, and a few survive even in the Shankill Road.

Many of the children wear school uniforms; blazers, wool pullovers and thick skirts or flannel trousers. An English resident said they are well taught in the three Rs, and his five-year-old child was given homework two weeks after beginning school.

More than once I was told that Northern Ireland has three classes, Protestant, Catholic and middle class. The first man to repeat this apparently well-worn cliché added bitterly that you do not have to go to church to belong to the first two; it was sufficient to belong to the tribe, and accept its age-old sectarian hatreds. Most members of the IRA and the Protestant paramilitary groups came from the working class, though they are used by men higher up the social scale.

The new middle class comes from both religious communities and is in part a product of the 1944 Education Act, which

gave talented children from all backgrounds the opportunity to attend university or polytechnic. Some believe the middle class will eventually be the saviour of Northern Ireland.

One beneficiary of Mr R. A. Butler's benign legislation is Mr John Cushman, a Catholic and son of a merchant seaman who was born in the Falls Road. He won a scholarship to a Christian Brothers grammar school and went on to Queen's University. He is now general secretary of the Alliance Party, which has only a registered membership of 8,000, is the largest party in the province. The secular parties do not have to declare their manifestoes; their supporters are bound to them by the terrible past.

The Alliance is 60 per cent Protestant and 40 per cent Catholic. They are largely of the middle class with social democratic aspirations. It should be the party of the future, or so many people believe, but Bobby Sands' victory in the 1981 election and his death changed all that. Extremism triumphed on both sides in the recent local elections, and moderate parties such as the Alliance and the Social Democratic and Labour Party went to the wall.

It was a great shock; a reminder that the mass of evil, to quote the Irish Catholic bishops, still exists in this green and pleasant land. It is also proof, if needed, that television and the media generally are not wholly responsible for Northern Ireland's bad image abroad.

Attitudes have hardened, and no doubt it will get worse if and when the hunger strike claims more sacrificial victims. Resistance to any solution that seeks to take Northern Ireland out of the United Kingdom will be resisted by moderates such as Mr Cushman and the independent Socialist Mr Gerry Pitt, as well as the hard-faced Protestant ultras.

Perhaps the Irish bishops will be heard in Downing Street as well as in IRA strongholds. If seems the best chance. Meanwhile, I can report that most of the northern Irish, despite the divisive past, still live peacefully together and appear to be proud of their province. That is another hope for the future.

Frank Johnson

Ruritania here we come

It is come again to our island—the season of mass tourism. The figures are expected to be a little down this year, it is said by some sources. And last year was down on the late 70s, the nightmare summer when the foreigners were here, here by the cheap pound. But, to the native observer, these are small gradations. The numbers look as menacing as ever.

The foreign visitors file listlessly through cathedral and stately home, and the cameras whirr in your ear at the opera. The Germans, in their vast glass coaches, snarl up the whole of the country. The Americans keep losing their passports. All complain about our rather relaxed attitude towards efficiency, not understanding that it is the mark of a civilisation. As a result of the necessity of everybody concerned—visitor, host and passing citizen—to be amiable to one another at all times, it will be a quiet, quietly flourishing tourism, on the scale that we have come to know it, is obviously one of the recurring plagues of mankind.

And yet we are subject on all sides to immense pressures to accept it as an obvious good. Last year alone, it brought in a billion and a half pounds to this country, and some quarters of a billion jobs, some crafty officials of the relevant government departments will confidently allege, knowing that in this statistics-buffed age a few figures are normally enough to silence all opposition. "Without it the London Theatre would collapse," cry the arts enthusiasts. Tourism is even advanced as one of the justifications for the monarchy, as if such authorities as Bagehot, who long ago devised perfectly plausible arguments for the idea of a constitutional monarchy, somehow forgot that

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STIFF TERMS FOR M MARCHAIS

The French elections have given President Mitterrand and the Socialist Party a position of power which appeared almost inconceivable a few months ago. The right has not only been evicted from the Elysée, which it had occupied for more than twenty years, but reduced to little more than half its representation in the National Assembly. On the left, the Socialists have become much the largest party, with an overall majority of 300 in the Assembly, while the Communists have suffered serious losses. The whole political landscape of France has changed.

The question now is what use Mitterrand and his party will make of this victory and, most immediately, whether they will agree to have Communists as members of the government. Until quite recently it appeared most likely that the Socialists would not be able to win a majority on their own, and that they would have to come to some sort of accommodation with the Communists in order to get a majority for their legislation in the Assembly. But that is not the way things have turned out, and the Socialists are not now dependent on Communist votes.

The arguments against having Communists in the government are straightforward, and they are reinforced by the fact that the government can do without Communist votes. It is bound to be disturbing to France's allies. There would be doubts about how far France could be trusted in matters of security, especially if information on sensitive topics was likely to become available to Communist ministers. It could also be taken as a precedent for Communist participation, in spite of rather different circumstances, in the governments of Italy and Spain.

There would be fears that the Communists would influence French policies at home and abroad.

There are, however, arguments in favour of bringing the Communists in, which derive from the structures of French politics. The Communist Party has been an important factor in French life for many years, and a largely disruptive one. It has been the achievement of Mitterrand to create a Socialist Party which has become more successful than the Communists, and which has now inflicted on them their worst defeat in many years. Mitterrand has done this by constantly emphasizing the theme of unity of the left, which has meant that many voters who previously voted Communist have swung to the Socialists. If after being elected, he and the Socialists were to be seen to be excluding the Communists, and so acting against the unity of the left, they could lose these new-found supporters, especially if times became difficult for them.

It is after all extremely unlikely that the present popularity of the Socialists will continue indefinitely. They, and Mitterrand, have been elected because of a desire for change, and because they were seen as being moderate in their policies. There have been high expectations of improvements in living standards after the more difficult times at the end of Mitterrand's presidency. But times are not easy for any of the western economies, and the likelihood is that the French Government will have to take unpopular measures to deal with inflation and other difficulties at some point. If the Communist Party was outside the government, it would be all too easy for it to take advantage of the discontent, and to wax eloquent about how the Socialists had

sold out to the right. Inside the government, it would have to share the responsibility for government policies.

The Communist Party has taken a serious blow in this year's elections. This is partly the result of Mitterrand's strategy, and partly of the party's own changing policies in recent years, which has disgusted many of its supporters. An inquest will now be held and M Marchais's position will obviously come under questioning. But the party remains strong in the trade unions, which could cause the government great difficulties; and it is always a potential rallying point for discontent.

Everything will depend, therefore, on the terms on which Communists may be admitted to the government. They would have to accept Socialist policies in a number of areas in which there have been marked differences between the two parties. Externally, these include a robust line with the Soviet Union on such issues as Afghanistan, Poland and the SS20 missiles, and Socialist support for the Camp David agreement between Israel and Egypt. Domestically, there are differences about how many private concerns should be nationalized, and about the role of the State in the economy. The Communists would also have to give a plausible undertaking to observe government solidarity when unpopular measures are taken. The indications so far are that they are prepared to swallow their pride on much of this; and the Socialists are in such a strong position after the elections that they can drive a hard bargain — and it might be that at the end of the day the Communists would find the demands made of them too steep. That is a matter, for them.

MR FOWLER'S PRUDENT MOUSE

It is only with some gritting of the teeth that the Government has brought itself to back British Rail's electrification plans even to the extent announced by Mr Fowler yesterday. The idea of spending one's way out of recession goes too much against its instincts and it sees British Rail as the archetype of the obstinately inefficient nationalized industry which it wishes to expose to harsh economic reality, not load with fresh subsidies. So there was no unconditional commitment yesterday, and no blessing for any one of the five options for electrification put forward by British Rail. It is a considerable deflation of last week's hopes.

It is true that British Rail has been promising improvements in efficiency for years, with too little to show for it. Productivity improved at the slowish rate of five per cent a year throughout the 1960s, and then fell to five per cent over the entire following decade. The present plans assume a reduction in the workforce of one-sixth over five years, a target which echoes the unfulfilled plan of five years ago. In spite of 20 per cent fare increases the network slipped back from profit into loss again last year. The attitude of the rail unions does not encourage optimism about future co-operation.

With unofficial strikes last month and threats this month from Mr. Sidgwick Weighell of official strikes, the Government did not agree to a "miners-type" investment programme to buy them off.

Mr Weighell has not been given his "miners-type" programme. Quite rightly not, since his comparison implied spending to bolster areas of activity with no adequate prospect of economic or social rewards. His intervention must have made the Government more reluctant rather than less to underwrite an investment that might simply be poured away into the railwaymen's pay packets. Step-by-step monitoring of results is an essential safeguard for any commitment to restore the railways.

But given safeguards of that kind, the potential rewards are immense. Because of Treasury insistence that renewal must be paid for out of current cash flow — a demand it does not make for roads — the rail network has been starved of capital to the point where a sharp decline in efficiency will soon become inevitable as equipment simply wears out. This applies not only to lines carrying the potentially profitable inter-city services mentioned by Mr Fowler yesterday. An imaginative investment scheme

can have implications for moral and efficiency throughout the organization and support the railway manufacturing industry in its export efforts. And just as some trains are run as a public service, even though they can never be profitable, the benefits of the lines which can and should cover their costs are not limited to what shows up in the immediate profit and loss account.

A properly monitored investment programme promises environmental gains in switching traffic from road to rail, and an insurance against energy shortage, taking advantage of Britain's resources of coal and nuclear power. The effect on public spending will be less than railway accounts alone might suggest, because the work would provide custom for our increasingly efficient steel industry. And, in spite of the low credit that Keynesian ideas have with this Government, public investment in capital projects adding permanently to our industrial infrastructure is a valuable resource in time of recession. Railway electrification can be a classic example of that kind of enterprise. The Government is right to be concerned about safeguards, but if the Victorians had followed the same approach we would still be in the horse and buggy era.

Help for British films

From Mr Alan Sapper and Sir John Terry

Sir, Mr William Burnside (May 26) and Messrs John and Roy Boulting (May 12) have criticized the proposed set up of a British Film Authority without apparently having read the reports in which this idea was formulated. These were the report of the Prime Minister's working party on the future of the British film industry (Cmd 6372) and the first report of the Interim Action Committee on the film industry (Cmd 7071) published in January, 1976 and January, 1978, respectively.

Both reports made it abundantly clear that the BFA would not be either "in total control of the principal sources of film finance" (Messrs Boulting) or "appointed to see that the new party line is strictly adhered to" (Mr Burnside) or named by "a plethora of civil servants who would exercise control over the film makers" (Mr Burnside).

What these reports in fact stated was that the fragmentation of government responsibilities in relation to film in all its forms had contributed to the present weakness of the British film industry and that it was therefore logical and sensible to have a single authority for the industry and film-as-art to be unified through a British Film Authority responsible to a single minister — not "another minister" (Mr Burnside) but one minister instead of, as at present, several ministers.

The BFA itself — which would place the Cinematograph Films Council, the National Film Finance Corporation and the British Film and Video Agency — would consist of between seven and nine members of whom at least two would be drawn from the film community and at least one would have a particular concern for the interests of the principal advisory body to the government on all matters relating to film, and its various powers could be exercised with the assistance of advisory committees drawn largely from the film community and which would be in a position to exert considerable influence on policy as well as being charged with normal routine activities.

despotic force over the film community rather than its efficient servant. We urge them to read the reports.

Again, when Mr Burnside says that "the Government-funded Film Finance Corporation, not to mention the earlier postwar Crown Film Unit, did little to advance major film production in this country at the cost of millions to the British taxpayer" he seems to have forgotten that the Crown Film Unit nurtured some of the finest film-making talent Britain has ever produced. And he seems to be unaware of the fact that the National Film Finance Corporation over a period of 30 years beginning in 1949 received from the British taxpayer an aggregate sum of only £3.5 million. The sum it paid interest to the British taxpayer totalling £4.8m and met its own operating expenses of £1.8m; and that with the balance of about £1m, it was able to finance basic and earning profits on one out of every three films supported, it advanced over £31m in helping to finance 750 feature films (from 17 Third Men to The Elephant Man) and thus kept in being a British film industry which would otherwise have been submerged under the tide of American imports.

Finally, Mr Burnside's allegation that the Association of Cinematograph, Television and Allied Technicians did even less than the National Film Finance Corporation to advance major film production in this country is manifestly untrue since it is the ACTA's own members — directors, cameramen, film technicians of all kinds — who have achieved for British film production an international reputation for excellence.

We are, Sir, yours very truly,
ALAN SAPPER,
JOHN TERRY,
2 Soho Square, W1.
June 3.

Point of qualification

From Miss Moira McGovern and others

Sir, To gain entry to some institutions offering a degree which is recognized by the College of Speech Therapists as a licence to practise, it is necessary to sit for three A levels, not two as stated in your editorial of June 12. It is a thirst for the snobbery of creating a more exclusive profession, is a misleading and

inaccurate way of describing how professional and licensing bodies ensure that the public is served by practitioners whose skill keeps pace with developments in specialized areas.

Happily, for the general well-being, it is indeed "no longer enough" for doctors to wish to ease pain, for dentists to have strong wrists, for bus drivers to be interested in driving or for train drivers to have "a love of locomotives". Such sentiments are a reasonable basis for embarking on a course of study or training; they are not in themselves "badges of employability".

Times change but it seems *The Times* does not change with them. Yours faithfully,
MOIRA MCGOVERN,
MARGARET EDWARDS,
DAVID CRISTAL,
Queen Margaret College,
Clarendon Terrace,
Edinburgh.
June 15.

The duty to nominate

From Mr Jeffrey Rooker, MP for Birmingham, Perry Bar (Labour)

Sir, It is simply not true (report, June 15) that the Yorkshire area council of the National Union of Mineworkers will, by not nominating candidates for reselection this year, save itself from the "same lengthy process next year", when the parliamentary boundaries are changed. Perhaps they have their own version of the Labour Party rule book.

Reselection has to be "set in motion not later than 36 months from the last general election" (clause XIV (7), 1e, by May, 1982). In this case, the last general election was in May, 1979.

Reallocation (not reselection) of new constituencies between existing prospective candidates (ie, re-elected MPs and others) cannot take place until after the House of Commons has approved the new English parliamentary boundaries, and the earliest estimate of this is spring, 1983.

Education and employment

From Mr M. J. Maguire and Mr D. N. Ashton

Sir, We read with interest your leader of June 12 and Mr William H. Stubbs's letter (June 16) regarding the importance placed on educational qualifications by employers recruiting young people. Having recently completed a comprehensive study of employers' policies and practices in recruiting and selecting young people for employment, we would like to make the following points:

1. We found that in recruitment to a wide range of occupations, including many in the white-collar and skilled manual sectors, employers attach greater importance to "person" skills and "qualities" than to academic qualifications. This was frequently true even when such qualifications were stipulated as a requirement of entry to a particular job, for although they may have secured the applicant an interview, the final decision was made on the basis of the candidates' personal qualities as reflected in their appearance, attitude to work, general behaviour, etc.

2. Contrary to popular beliefs about the raising of the level of qualifications demanded by employers, and the use of educational qualifications to restrict entry to a wider range of occupations, as claimed by Ronald Dore in *The Diploma Disease*, we found that notions of qualification inflation could only be applied to the higher echelons of the professional arena, notably in the professions. (Incidentally, we consider that the case presented by Ronald Dore constituted hypothesis rather than documentation.)

3. The praiseworthy efforts of Mr Stubbs to gain acceptance of "yuppie" criteria for recruitment, information about the non-academic qualities of young people will require a change in the attitude of employers to the school report. Of the 350 employers interviewed by us in our research, the vast majority placed little or no reliance on school reports when assessing a young person's candidature.

4. Perhaps our most disturbing finding related to the enormous gulf between education and industry. Generally, employers perceived the educational system as being ignorant of the world of work and what it was all about, and as failing to produce the young people they required, not in terms of educational qualifications but precisely in terms of the attitude and behaviour that Mr Stubbs would like them to consider. Our results would indicate that it is the educationalists who tend to over-emphasize the importance of qualifications.

Employers are much more sceptical of educational qualifications, and therefore are taken by surprise to gain a better understanding of each other's requirements and philosophies, for the benefit of the educational system, the employing community and, most of all, young people.

Yours faithfully,
M. J. MAGUIRE,
Research Associate,
D. N. ASHTON,
Senior Lecturer,
The University of
Leicester.
June 17.

Maria's tragedy

From Mr Roger Gaitley

Sir, The Maria Mehmmedagi inquiry (reported June 11) is an example of the failings in the present child abuse inquiry system. I speak as the social worker who had the initial task of co-ordinating actions taken over Maria at St James's Hospital in January, 1978.

Witnesses, I feel, should have the chance to correct errors at the proof stage. But the reports and misrepresentations appear both in the inquiry report and your subsequent article. Firstly, although initial information on Maria was misleading, it was made by St Thomas's Hospital to retrieve this from King's College Hospital. Secondly the juvenile bureau were not involved because the Criminal Investigation Department in M. J. Maguire's report advised that they were the appropriate branch to deal with. Excellent cooperation was subsequently established between police and social workers although there were feelings that the strength of police action was anti-therapeutic when considering any chance to rehabilitate Maria.

Furthermore, there is a strong case to show that these inquiries cause unnecessary suffering to the social worker involved. I am not wishing to evade individual responsibility, but we must question whether the pilorying of social workers by media and society in such cases is helpful. After all, it was not the social workers who battered Maria. In this case, the senior social worker, a man of absolute integrity and high professional standards, was placed by industrial circumstances and management failure in a position of great stress and the strongest will. The current which hunt by certain papers ignores the comment made in the report that there are bound to be inevitable effects on society if 150 social workers go on strike. Maria's tragic case contains many lessons for all to learn from. It raises moral dilemmas — for example, should social workers ever strike? I have no doubt that the social workers' resources been available to help Maria in her sad and limbo state then the outcome would have been quite different.

In the final analysis enough good reputations have been ruined over the years by child abuse investigations. The Department of Health and Social Security must take responsibility and provide guidance and support to respond to deal with child abuse. It is not enough for reports and their ramifications to become a fashionable pastime for a society that is all too voyeuristic and content to sit back and let social workers be its professional conscience and whipping boys at one and the same time.

Yours sincerely,
ROGER GAITLEY,
11 Swan Place,
Ellon,
Aberdeenshire.
June 12.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Concern over the Springbok tour

From the Acting High Commissioner for Tanzania

Sir, Your editorial of June 20 upholding the unfettered right of sportsmen in a democratic society to play with whom they wish, irrespective of consequences, may be academically laudable. It fails to recognize, however, that the proposed Springbok tour of New Zealand has occasioned intense concern not only in countries whose understanding of democracy you regard as less than perfect, but within New Zealand itself, where the majority of whose population are reported to be opposed to the tour. Your concern to uphold the freedom of the individual, including the freedom to do wrong, in fact misses the point. The real issue of the present controversy by not addressing itself to its central issue — the issue of apartheid.

As you say, the more totalitarian the regime the more likely it is to be an integral part of its diplomatic initiative abroad. Exactly so. It is precisely because of this that the projected tour of New Zealand is seen by most of us and most certainly by South Africa as a serious breach of the international campaign against apartheid. At the heart of the matter is not aid political theory or interpretation of democracy, as your editorial implies, but the more fundamental moral issue of gross and systematic denial by South Africa of the most basic rights and freedoms to the overwhelming majority of its citizens because of their colour. The world community has accepted a responsibility to work for their emancipation, and the Gleneagles Agreement was a Commonwealth contribution to this wider effort. When they meet their mutual commitments, Commonwealth leaders were perfectly conscious that a balance would need to be struck between the

larger good and individual freedoms; but they were unanimous in their confidence that this would be done in such a way as to ensure that "there were unlikely to be future sporting contacts of any significance between Commonwealth countries or their nationals and South Africa".

As the Commonwealth Secretary General has pointed out, the proposed Springbok tour of New Zealand constitutes the most significant breach of the Gleneagles understanding of the unanimous expectation of Commonwealth leaders at Gleneagles. The point of the protests within and without New Zealand is neither the right balance has indeed been struck. That higher principles can be made to prevail where there is a will that they should be evidenced by the fact that Australia has made it clear that it will refuse even transit visas to the Springboks.

There is an offensiveness (whether studied or inadvertent does not much matter) in your assumption that Third World countries must be either cynical or hypocritical. We are neither. But to say in effect to the New Zealand rugby union: "What you propose to do is wrong, but be assured of your freedom to do it" will appear to many as a somewhat less than the effective fulfilment of the commitments of Gleneagles to stand against apartheid. Such a message of injured compliance brings comfort mainly to Pretoria, for it is the same kind of assurance that it seeks from the "free" world over a yet wider field of wrongdoing. It is certainly not a message you must expect to issue from today's Commonwealth.

Yours truly,
L. E. HOWELL,
Tanzania High Commissioner,
43 Hertford Street, W1.
June 22.

Navy cuts and Alliance duties

From Captain Lord Mottistone, RN (retired)

Sir, Like many of your recent correspondents whilst welcoming the Government's intention to squeeze Trident into the overall defence budget, I am most concerned at the rumours that drastic economies in the budget are to be made at the expense of the Navy.

In defence terms, let us have no doubts about where our priorities are. Surely above all else, the first priority must be the United States Navy, without which we have no credible means of deterring Russia's vast forces. Because of Russia's massive build-up of its surface and submarine fleet the United States Navy itself is being increased in size. The way to deal with the worldwide commitment which we owe shared. Surely this is not the time for us to renege on our commitment to our good maritime friend, when the Americans are fully appreciative of the vital importance of the transatlantic maritime bridge.

We vitally need in any war in Europe (and, in deterrent terms, the credible ability for the Americans to provide) the one million earmarked soldiers (16 BAORs) and the 2,000 plus combat aircraft (13 RAF Germanies) that feature as the total United States reinforcement in D. Harold Brown's report of the United States Defence Department relating to January, 1982. The United States reinforcement aircraft can lift in a month only as many men as eight fast merchantmen can bring over in five days.

Against this picture, are we

making the best contribution to NATO by spending over 40 per cent of our annual defence budget in helping to defend 40 miles of the German central front and the central region airspace? We have a navy of a size and a quality that no other European ally possesses. The Eastern Atlantic we provide three quarters of NATO's warship strength, but even this (now almost stripped of British maritime air cover) is not enough — as America's SACMANT (Atlantic Fleet Commander Atlantic) well knows. So one wonders, if Mr Nott's are bites deeply into our Navy as many indicators portend (the latest are a 40 per cent cut in this year's officer-recruiting targets and the scrapping of our new anti-submarine warfare carriers) will the American Congress still want to approve the sale to us of Trident? The present mood in Congress reminds us that we cannot by any means take the United States commitment to their European allies for granted.

I hope we will have Trident. Trident and a strong Navy make a good defence insurance policy. But if it is not, might Britain not have to use Trident in war? And what are the implications for America of that?

No, let us keep our Navy, small though it already is, and let us cut elsewhere in areas where the long-term security of the national and of the NATO alliance are not so fundamentally at risk.

Yours faithfully,
MOTTISTONE,
House of Lords,
June 17.

Reporting Ulster

From the Director of News and Current Affairs, BBC

Sir, I would not lightly dismiss the views of a former tutor, but I wonder whether, to judge from his letter of June 15, Professor Wilson is able to watch or listen to much BBC television or radio output? Has he drawn sufficient distinction between news reporting and the reflection of "normal" life in the province in other programmes? And, living in Glasgow, can he be so aware of everything the BBC broadcasts within Ulster? The overall picture put out by the BBC is very different from the vivid images of conflict often seen on the minor channels.

Obviously, BBC news will reflect the activities and statements of the most prominent political figures. It is not part of its job to compensate for the lack of news generated by political moderates, or by parties of former prominence whose leadership nowadays is divided. Neither is it BBC news' role to "assist" anyone.

As an summary of the BBC's reporting over the years will illustrate the enormous amount of attention paid to those concerned with reconciliation, such as the Peace People. Discussion programmes, on the other hand, are balanced so far as practicable to reflect the political spectrum. And, as to general programmes, not only do the BBC's propagandistic series make a point of visiting Northern Ireland just like other parts of the United Kingdom, but the evidence suggests producers go out of their way to seek stories and events for the networks which reflect the non-violent life of the province. *Nationwide*, for example, has spent far more time looking at everyday life in Ulster than any other region of the UK. And no less than 35 times since last September have network programmes examined the sort of issues Professor Wilson accuses the BBC of overlooking. Surely, if any one of your colleagues puts it, the real image of Ulster today is not one simply of war or peace, but "normality tinged with flak-jackets".

Yours, etc.
RICHARD FRANCIS,
BBC,
Television Centre, W12.
June 18.

From Mrs J. M. McKenna

Sir, In the last fortnight at least two prominent citizens — an MP and a political commentator — have claimed that the IRA has murdered more than 2,000 people in Northern Ireland over the last 12 years. This is about 95 per cent of the people killed here since 1969.

This figure seems to have originated in a report in your newspaper on May 8, when your reporter, Christopher Thomas, referred in his first sentence to the "Protestants lamenting 'their 2,000 dead from 12 years of terrorism'".

Strike threat at British Gas

From Mr Tim Eggar, MP for Enfield, North (Conservative)

Sir, Sir Denis Rooke's response (June 19) to your story (June 17) was disingenuous.

The Monopolies Commission, after three years of study, stated clearly that the gas showroom monopoly was against the best interests of consumers and gas appliance manufacturers.

As might be expected Sir Denis has always jealously defended British Gas's monopoly powers regardless of the national interest. However the tactics he has employed over the past weeks in defence of the retail monopoly have been both unexpected and unjustified. The £2m of taxpayers' money has been earmarked for the massive showroom advertising campaign designed to gain public support for the monopoly. Almost all the unsolicited comments have been made about the deterioration in safety standards if the monopoly were to be removed. Understandably employees and their unions have been perturbed about the possible job losses.

Sir Denis has done nothing to allay that concern. Indeed he has stated that up to 40,000 jobs will be lost if the commission's "radical" proposal is followed. Yet the showrooms employ fewer than 3,500 people and the commission commented that the TIC evidence of a 30,000 jobs loss was an extremely high estimate.

If a strike does occur in the gas industry Sir Denis will bear a great deal of the responsibility.

Yours faithfully,
TIM EGGAR,
House of Commons.
June 22.

Church treasures

From Mr J. W. S. Litten

Sir, Might I endorse Mr Paul Paget's letter (June 17) and go further in asking for qualified laymen to advise on the disposal of items of church treasure? This lamentable and unenviable task is at present undertaken by diocesan furnishings officers, themselves often full-time parish priests, whose qualifications for appointment have never been officially formulated by the church authorities, so doubtless there must be many cases of ignorance of value.

Due to paragraph 62(2) and 65(8) of the Pastoral Measure, 1968, too many items of great artistic and devotional importance, often given in trust to the Church, have been sold at auction or to the open market to the greater financial gain of dealers and the cultural impoverishment of the individual parishes concerned.

Surely a prime example of the Church's assets being brought for a mess of pottage? Yours faithfully,
JULIAN W. S. LITTEN,
The Vicarage,
St Barnabas Road,
Walthamstow, E17.
June 17.

Lloyd's Bill

From the President of Wolfson College, Oxford

Sir, The reasons which led to a substantial majority of the Fisher working party to recommend that Lloyd's brokers should be required to have direct access to the ownership of managing agencies (Business News letter, June 1) are set out in chapter 12 of the report. The same considerations do not apply to links between members' agents and managing agencies.

The possibility of action contrary to the interest of assureds (which was a powerful motive for our recommendations in chapter 12) does not arise, I believe that, if it became impossible for the same person, firm or company to act both as a managing agent and as a members' agent, so that it was no longer possible for managing agents to have direct access to the standards of underwriting would decline and Lloyd's would suffer. Names would be deprived of the freedom which they now enjoy (and which they may well consider to be in their best interests) to put their affairs in the hands of an agency which has its own syndicates.

Incidentally, it would become far more difficult to carry through the drive by the brokers for the ownership of managing agencies. Yours faithfully,
H. A. P. FISHER,
Wolfson College,
Oxford.
June 11.

Hunger for knowledge

From Mrs Susan Hall

Sir, I teach English to immigrants, including the foreign wives of English sailors. To set up my class I was lent six books and given a stack of card, three felt-tipped pens and a pot of glue.

Today I attended a conference for teachers of English as a second language. It was very pleasant, with wine for lunch and cream scones for tea.

What are our priorities? Cream teas or books? Yours faithfully,
SUSAN HALL,
21 Queensberry Avenue,
Hartlepool,
Cleveland.
June 19.

Crestfallen

From Chester Herald

Sir, As a graduate of Trinity College, Cambridge who, like the Earl of Chester, achieved only a modest II II, I am glad the university has dropped its plan to give Prince Charles and Lady Diana a set of table mats embroidered with the university's crest ("Thrifty gift"). *Times* (June 19): This would have been even thrifter a gift than a secondhand book for the university has no crest like many ancient institutions it bears for its coat of arms a shield alone.

Those who forget the meaning of the word "crest" should compare in their mind's eye the great crested grebe and the poor old coot. Yours faithfully,
HUBERT CHESSHYRE,
Chester Herald,
College of Arms,
Queen Victoria Street, EC4.
June 19.

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Stock markets

FT Index 5443 up 2.9
FT Gilts 66.15 up 0.37

Sterling

\$1.9925 up 2.15 cents
Index 95.7 up 0.6

Dollar

Index 108.1 down 0.6
DM 2.3695 down 53 pts

Gold

\$462.50 up \$4

Money

3-month sterling 12½-12½
3-month Euro \$ 18½-18½
6-month Euro \$ 17½-17½

IN BRIEF

Few takers for BOC offering

BOC International, the leading British group in industrial gases, yesterday saw most of its £22m of 9 per cent convertible loan stock offering rejected by the stock market. Underwriters, the big investment institutions who insure such issues for a fee, are having to take up 73 per cent of the stock.

St Piran adjournment

Mr Justice Dillon yesterday adjourned the hearing of the winding up petition brought against St Piran, the mining and construction group, until July 23. The petition is being brought by Kunc Nominees which holds under 1 per cent of St Piran's shares for Genor, the South African mining group.

3-D camera production

The world's first full 3-D camera aimed at the mass market began production in Dundee yesterday. Nimble, the designer, has received grants of £2.7m to help equip their factory.

Peugeot loss

Peugeot, the French car maker which takes in Talbot in the UK, yesterday announced the £1.500m (£135m) net loss for 1980 which it forecast last November. The comparable figure in 1979 was a profit of £1.800m. Investments rose from £5.068m to £5.756m.

Eurobond flotations

West Germany's leading banks have decided against arranging a calendar for mark-denominated Eurobond flotations because of the lack-lustre state of the new issue market. Today's decision means that the near freeze on new foreign mark loans will continue.

Tesco superstore

Tesco is to build a multi-million pound superstore at Abingdon, Oxfordshire. The 20 acre site is on the A34 Abingdon bypass, where a store, garden centre and filling station will be built. Work is expected to start in August and finish before Christmas, 1982, creating about 200 jobs.

Zips plant closure

Work at the Talon Division of Textron—an American company—which makes zip fasteners at Treforest, near Pontypridd, Mid Glamorgan, will end within five months with a loss of 360 jobs. The company blames cheap foreign imports from Japan, Taiwan and Europe.

Record deliveries fall

Record companies' deliveries declined by 1.5 per cent to 19.3m units during the first quarter of 1981, with the value of orders up 4.8 per cent to £12.8m. Rising imports, home taping and the recession were blamed for poor sales.

Bakery jobs go

The Mothers Pride bakery at Peterborough is to close by September with the loss of 190 jobs. Production is being switched to other bakeries. The company blamed continuing losses at Peterborough for its decision.

US tax cut move

The United States Senate Finance Committee voted yesterday to reduce capital gains tax from 28 to 20 per cent. It also agreed to cut the top individual income tax rate of 70 per cent to 50 per cent on investment income.

Wall Street lower

The Dow Jones industrial average closed 1.99 points down at 954.20. The S&P 500 was 1.1862. The £ was 0.583688.

Big switch likely on money supply rules

By David Blake

Big changes in the way the Bank of England operates to control the money supply are likely to come into effect towards the end of August.

The Bank has circularized the clearing banks and a number of other banks with proposals for changing to a system where all eligible banks will have to deposit an amount equivalent to half of one per cent of their eligible liabilities with the Bank of England.

Comments on the proposals are expected from the commercial banks over the next two or three weeks. If there are no big problems, the Bank will announce a date from which the new system will operate.

August 20 has been pencilled in as the chosen time. At some point before then, the Bank will issue a new list setting out the names of all eligible banks covered by the system. Leading foreign banks in London are likely to be included, thus widening the scope for control.

If all goes well, on August 20

the Reserve Asset Ratio system will be abolished. This has served a double purpose, controlling the money supply and in preventing banks from taking excessive risks.

The reserve asset ratio prevents banks from having deposits which are too large in relation to their assets. They have been asked for written assurances that they will not change their policies, which are designed to prevent their lending from rising too fast without getting Bank of England permission.

The reserve assets system has been heavily criticized in recent years for failing to accomplish either of its tasks adequately. On the same date that the reserve assets system is abolished, all eligible banks will be expected to deposit money with members of the London Discount Market Association amounting to about £3,000m, which is likely to be roughly 5 to 6 per cent of their eligible liabilities. This is less tough than the present system.

The changes do however open the way towards a more market-oriented system for controlling the money supply, possibly moving towards some variant of monetary base control if it were decided to go down that path.

Tax move to aid ailing US savings banks

From Frank Vogt
Washington, June 22

The Reagan Administration and Congress are hoping to see a cut in interest rates soon as a way of helping America's ailing savings and loans institutions, the equivalent of building societies.

There are fears in some banking quarters that many savings institutions will be forced to close their doors if high interest rates continue for another few months.

But the administration and Congress have decided against emergency legislation to assist the savings banks. However, some help is likely through an amendment to tax legislation, now being drafted in Congress, that would enable the savings banks to offer tax-exempt certificates of deposit to the public.

Today Citibank and Chemical Bank in New York both raised their prime lending rates to 20 per cent. The Federal Reserve has been forced to raise short-term loan rates but rates generally are highly volatile.

Mr George Bush, the Vice-President, told a stock exchange meeting that the administration was serious about its anti-inflation programme. Once the markets and investors fully grasped this then interest rates would start to fall reasonably rapidly.

America's banking authorities are closely monitoring more than 250 savings institutions that are said to have particular difficulties.

The problem almost everywhere is that these banks have large amounts of fixed, low-interest mortgages on their books. Depositors are withdrawing savings that pay less than 6 per cent, and their cash is being used to buy government bonds offering rates almost three times as high.

The United States League of Savings Associations, the industry's trade organization, first sought to lobby for legislation that would provide emergency aid. But the administration decided against this, arguing that the problem was temporary and would disappear as interest rates fell.

Amendments to the tax bills would enable the savings banks to offer tax-exempt savings certificates to the public at a yield equal to 70 per cent of the prevailing yield on treasury bills.

Some congressmen back this general idea, but want safeguard clauses added to ensure that the savings banks use revenues obtained by this means to issue new mortgages.

More aid to keep Harland's afloat £57m lifeline for Belfast

By Peter Hill, Industrial Editor



Harland's yard in Belfast where the company hopes to build bulk coal carriers.

Further state aid in cash and guarantees on commercial borrowings totalling almost £57m are to be made available to Harland and Wolff, the Belfast shipbuilding and engineering group.

A total of £46m is being provided by the Government this financial year. It will be supported by government guarantees on commercial borrowings up to a ceiling of £10.5m.

This was announced yesterday in a brief two-paragraph written parliamentary answer by Mr Adam Butler, Minister of State for Northern Ireland.

The announcement boosts the total financial aid made available by successive governments to Harland and Wolff to more than £300m since the mid-sixties.

The latest rescue comes after the provision of a similar sum a year ago to the Belfast group, which has suffered from a continuing cash crisis for years amid the continuing social and political troubles of Ulster.

Successful chairmen and chief executives have sought to

make the company profitable, but their hopes have constantly proved wildly optimistic.

In 1979 the company recorded a loss of £42.6m and the figures for last year, which are expected to be published in the next few days, are likely to show only a marginal reduction in the size of loss.

The Government, however reluctantly, has been forced to provide a financial lifeline for Harland and Wolff because of the company's importance as Belfast's dominant employer, whose liquidation would lead to an even larger drain on public funds.

Harland, along with other yards in the United Kingdom, has been suffering from a desperate need for new orders to maintain employment for the workforce. Its present order book will be exhausted in two years time.

Vessels on order consist of the test of a series of ferries for British Rail whose production has been severely disrupted, two liquefied petroleum gas carriers for British Petroleum, and two 109,000-ton deadweight

oil tankers also for BP.

Over the past year the company has developed a range of designs for large bulk carriers and is hopeful that the expanding trade in the shipping of coal will lead to orders for this type of ship.

A year ago the Government appointed an independent review team under Sir Patrick Meaney as chairman to prepare a report on the prospects of Harland and Wolff diversifying into other activities and making use of the extensive facilities which exist at the company's Queen's Island yard.

Mr Butler said that the Government was considering the review team's report and the company's corporate plan which will cover the period to March 1985. A further statement is expected to be made shortly.

Harland and Wolff's sole shareholder is the Northern Ireland Department of Commerce. The company has been under effective state control since 1975, although even before then Government equity had been a little under 50 per cent.

Date set for shipyard closure

By Donald Macintyre, Labour Reporter

British Shipbuilders yesterday finally announced the date of closure of the Robb Caledon shipyard in Dundee—September 18.

Management said that the run-down of the remaining labour force of 435 would have to be completed by then. British Shipbuilders, which announced its formal decision "with regret", said the yard had been losing money for some years, that losses currently stood at £250,000 a month and that the yard was without work

or the prospect of further orders.

Last week the corporation had made it clear to union leaders in Newcastle that it intended to close the yard, which has been the subject of negotiations with the unions for more than 18 months, but promised to give a week of further thought before making yesterday's announcement.

The last vessel built at Dundee, a small ferry for use on the Tyne, was completed earlier

this year, and the corporation said yesterday that attempts to win orders for engineering or off-shore equipment which might have maintained jobs had proved fruitless.

A total of 80 technical staff and 45 apprentices employed at the yard will be retained within British Shipbuilders, and the corporation also said that it would attempt to ensure that as many as possible of the rest left through voluntary redundancy, retraining and redeployment.

Enterprise zone opens at Corby

By Peter Hill
Industrial Editor

England's first enterprise zone, at Corby, one of 11 zones being established to stimulate new businesses, was formally opened yesterday.

It will be followed by others over the next three months, and all of them will offer considerable advantages to companies within the zone areas. Benefits include relaxation of planning requirements, exemption from rates, 100 per cent capital allowances and exemption from development land tax.

The Corby zone, which covers 280 acres, was formally established by an exchange of leases between the Commission for New Towns and the Bradbury Group, a local developer, and witnessed by Mr Michael Heseltine, the Environment Secretary.

Some 50 acres have already been committed to development, with 32 factories under construction and six companies already operating.

Mr Heseltine, speaking at the opening ceremony said: "I can't promise zones will be successful—that depends on people taking advantage of the opportunities. But I am very encouraged by the enormous interest shown by the private sector."

Referring to criticisms about the enterprise zone concept, which was announced by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in his Budget of the Exchequer, Mr Heseltine said if companies looked at the opportunities and took advantage of the freedoms available, enterprise zones would have the potential to help everyone, both inside and outside the zones.

The Government has launched the enterprise zones as an experiment in attempting to generate new economic activity throughout the United Kingdom. The first zone to be designated, the lower Swansea valley, was inaugurated earlier this month.

Call to ease state industry curbs

By Rupert Morris

Sir Francis Tombs, former chairman of the Electricity Council, said yesterday that he would have stayed on in the post if he could have secured the right kind of Government financing system.

He told MPs on the Treasury and Civil Service select committee that no managing director of a big company would accept the kind of constraints imposed by external financing networks.

Earlier, members of the accepting houses committee and the Issuing Houses Association had recommended to the committee that nationalized industries should be given freedom

to borrow in the markets as an alternative to borrowing from the National Lending Fund.

Mr Paul Richards, of Samuel Monagu, pointed out that in other countries nationalized industries were able to borrow on their own account, and this was excluded from the public sector borrowing requirement.

But in reply to a question from Mr Edward du Cann, chairman of the select committee, Mr John Baring, chairman of the accepting houses committee, agreed that substantial borrowing in the markets by nationalized industries would tend to push up interest rates.

Free-for-all 'no value' to Telecom

By Our Industrial Staff

The Society of Post Office Executives, which represents 24,000 of the engineering management in British Telecom, has called on the Government to think carefully before liberalizing the telecommunications network.

The society's views are contained in a report by Professor Christopher Foster, director of Coopers and Lybrand's economics and public policy division.

A document published by the Government in April, based on a survey conducted by Professor Michael Beesley of London Business School, came out strongly in favour of the private sector competing with British Telecom in providing certain network services called "value added services".

But the Foster report disputes whether the private sector leasing British Telecom circuits simply for rehire adds any value to such networks.

"What Beesley proposes appears to be to simply buy and reselling BT's long-distance circuits. That has no precedent in the USA or elsewhere. But more crucially, it does not appear to involve adding any appreciable value to the BT service."

Professor Beesley was influenced by the Americans' liberal approach, but the Foster report concludes: "There is no basis for assuming that the United Kingdom can realize similar benefits from the simple resale of BT's existing capacity to third parties for unrestricted use."

The Telecommunications Bill, expected to be law by the end of this session, will empower the Industry Secretary to grant licences to private operators.

Argentina adopts two-tier peso to protect reserves

From Tony Emerson, Buenos Aires, June 22

In order to halt the run on Argentina's reserves, the central bank adopted a two-tier exchange policy today, creating a "commercial" peso and a "financial" peso.

The "commercial" peso will be fixed by the central bank and be used for payments and receipts of imports and exports calculated for Argentine ports.

The central bank today fixed this value at a selling rate of 4,430 pesos to the dollar, compared with 4,430 on Friday. This is in accordance with the policy of the crawling peg devaluation of about 6 per cent per month declared three weeks ago.

Argentina adopts two-tier peso to protect reserves

From Tony Emerson, Buenos Aires, June 22

The "financial" peso will be allowed a clean float. Although exchange brokers were given a strong official hint that the financial rate should be about 5,000 pesos to the dollar, the physical shortage of dollar bills pushed the selling rate up to over 6,000 pesos, but it subsequently dropped to about 5,500 when markets closed.

Small investors are besieging exchange houses in the centre of Buenos Aires. They fear that the new measures—which have tripled the peso value of the financial dollar in six months—will trigger a spell of hyperinflation.

Pound rises against weak dollar

By Our Economics Staff

The pound jumped 2.15 cents against the dollar to \$1.9925 on foreign exchanges yesterday as the American currency weakened in response to lower dollar interest rates and Iraq's threat late in the day to cut off oil supplies to the United States.

Swelling also gained against Continental currencies, its trade-weighted index improving 0.6 to 95.7.

The dollar ended London trading at DM2.3695, down 55 points from Friday. It opened sharply down from the previous close in the wake of a slide in Eurodollar deposit rates after Friday's better than expected United States money supply figures.

It recovered during the course of the day when it became clear that American domestic interest rates were remaining firm, with the key Fed Funds rate trading at around 19½ per cent up from 18 per cent late on Friday.

Citibank and Chemical Bank slashed the great majority of leading American banks in raising their prime rates from 19 to 20 per cent.

The French franc emerged from Sunday's election unchanged. It was steady within the European Monetary System and gained on the dollar, but it lost ground against sterling, which climbed from 11.113 francs on Friday to 11.203 francs yesterday.

Unigate £30m expansion

By Clifford Webb, Midlands Industrial Correspondent

Unigate is investing £30m to expand its Wincanton subsidiary, with special emphasis on its rapidly growing transport business.

The intention is to establish Wincanton's name in national transport. Until now it has been generally regarded as the company primarily responsible for Unigate's own transport, such as the bulk carriage of dairy products.

With little publicity outside

the trade it has become Britain's fastest growing independent company in commercial vehicle contract hire and rental.

Opening a new £5.5m complex for Wincanton Transport at Darlington, West Midlands, yesterday, Mr John Clement, chairman of Unigate, said three further sites at Chippenham, Wiltshire, Uttoxeter, Staffordshire, and West London were under construction at a cost of around £2m each.

Bids in for survey of technology

By Bill Johnstone

Six management consultants have submitted proposals to the Government on how best to survey the benefits that could accrue to Britain from technological joint ventures with Japan.

The consultants, invited at the end of April to submit their tenders, all have offices in both Britain and Japan. A decision is expected by the end of July.

The study, which will probably take at least six months, was first proposed 18 months ago but has received greater impetus in the wake of a ministerial visit to Japan in April, when a collaborative agreement with the Japanese Ministry for International Trade was signed.

Mr Kenneth Baker, Minister of State for Industry and Information Technology, who has recently held talks with Mr Rokusuke Tanaka, Japan's Minister for International Trade and Industry, is keen on encouraging such joint ventures.

The survey is expected to cover two principal areas—information technology and the application of electronics to manufacturing processes.

There will be ministerial exchanges between Britain and Japan. Delegations of business men led by representatives of the Department of Industry will be visiting Japan in the coming months.

Recent statements by Mr Baker have emphasized that the Government wants any exchange of ideas to be a two-way process, and several leading British companies in the machine tool industry have already entered into agreements with Japanese counterparts.

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THE PLACE TO BE

A gripping tale of export success Jubilee for the best clip joints

By David Newson

It may do little to ease the tension between Japan and Europe over the imbalance of trade between the two, but Britain can claim an important new export success in the land of the rising yen.

If you want a hoseclip with panache in Osaka it should have the "Jubilee" stamp on it and have first seen the light of day in Gillingham, Kent.

L. Robinson, which, with its 200 employees, has been turning out Jubilees since 1921, has now become Japan's biggest source of hoseclips. Jubilees clamp pipes on the earth-moving giants made by the equipment manufacturers Komatsu and keep the Hondas of Japan's upwardly mobile classes on the road when the home-made versions call it a day.

The Gillingham company invented the clip and held on to the patent until the end of the last war, when Japan took advantage of the expiry of the patent and started to make its own.

According to Mr Chris Bunting, Robinson's sales manager, his company hit back 10 years ago by appointing a Japanese trading company, Shirio, as its agent.

"There were a number of small hoseclip

producers at the time—it was almost a cottage industry", Mr Bunting said. "What our trading company did was establish the British Standards Institution trademark as a standard of quality and the Union Jack as our trademark. It has increased and increased our share of the market."

To such an extent, apparently, that £500,000 of Robinson's current £5m turnover comes from exports to Japan, where its Kentish virtues have become a byword of hoseclip purity. Its up-market stainless steel models are particularly pleasing to Oriental tastes.

The company now has to contend with international competition from everyone who can turn out the clip, a device tightened by a single screw which will be familiar to everyone who has had to deal with a leaky radiator.

With the recession, its export share of production has fallen from 48 per cent to around 40 per cent. But according to Mr H. Yashima, vice-president of Shirio, who has just visited the Gillingham company, the Jubilee remains Japan's most prestigious and popular hoseclip in the face of myriad smaller competitors, and prospects for the future are still bright.

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

BOC changes the convertible rules

The news that underwriters are earning their keep by having to take up 73 per cent of the £32m BOC International convertible rights issue is hardly tragic. It is disappointing for stock market dealers in convertibles who badly want a bigger market to deal in. There are around 200 convertibles outstanding with a nominal value of some £1,000m, but 15 of these account for 70 per cent of the total. All the same BOC has secured its money without diluting equity, and its merchant bank, Lazards, has demonstrated that it won its client the finest terms available, albeit at the expense of alienating parts of the City.

However, the BOC issue is bound to have repercussions. The consequences of an issue being left with underwriters is that subsequent issues will have to be on more generous terms. The BOC coupon of 9 per cent was acceptable—it compares with a 5.3 per cent yield on the ordinary shares—but the conversion price of 135p against a share price that ended yesterday at 123p was plainly too high. In rational terms, the market chose to take a cautious view of BOC's dividend paying potential. To make matters worse when Lazards fixed the terms of the issue BOC shares were 127p, but the BP £600m blockbuster changed that.

From now on companies issuing convertibles will probably have to erase the conversion premium. For once the impression gains ground that a convertible issue is too finely pitched the temptation to sell shares and buy the convertible or simply to sell the shares and buy them back will be strong. The process once started becomes self-feeding. The sacrifice the company has to make in giving up the conversion premium is a small one. A straight issue of ordinary shares would mean equity dilution through the issue of shares at a discount of more than 20 per cent. And the interest coupon on a convertible is offsettable against corporation tax. Meanwhile, BOC underwriters may be unhappy, but the group is doing well, interest rates will fall at some stage, and the convertible at 127p is starting to look attractive.

Meanwhile, investors will today be giving their verdict on the BP issue with trading today in the nil-paid rights. Although things have been complicated by the Government's sale of part of its stake and the payment by two instalments, the issue is expected to go well with some arbitraging possibilities between the ordinary rights and the Government rights.

Courtaulds Changing profile

As the rationalization and closure programme at Courtaulds gathered pace last year, so the balance of the group has been changing. The bulk of capital is still employed in the United Kingdom, where Courtaulds made a net trading loss of £7m during 1980-81, but the proportion has been declining. Last year the balance between capital employed in the United Kingdom and overseas moved from just under 2:1 to under 2:1.

The other major structural change at Courtaulds is the growing importance of its non-textiles interests. In profit terms these



Mr Christopher Hogg, chairman of Courtaulds.

have been crucial in keeping Courtaulds in the black at the pretax level. International Paint, for instance, produced £22m of the £30m group trading profit last year and the proportion of capital employed in non-textile interests rose last year from about one-fifth to nearly a quarter of the total as the textile operations were chopped back.

Fabrics has been the worst sufferer among the broadly-based textile operations and since the year end another major closure

has been announced in Northern Ireland at Campsie. This will account for a sizeable part of the £41m extra depreciation Courtaulds provided in the accounts, reflecting the writing-down of fixed assets where their useful life was in doubt beyond a few months.

However, the fabrics division, which swung from trading profits of £14m to £8m losses during 1980-81, provides a prime example of the success of the ruthless cash management policy which has involved withdrawing capital from those areas without a long-term future. Despite the turnaround to losses, the operating cash flow from fabrics was more than doubled to £33m and it was this kind of action throughout the group which enabled Courtaulds to end the year with net liquid funds up from £34m to £86m and maintain net debt at about three-fifths of shareholders' funds.

As for the future, Courtaulds sees no real evidence yet of any upturn in its United Kingdom operations, and further closures here must remain a possibility. However, the overseas operations have started the year well and are expected to produce an improved performance, and with the shares at 68p, Courtaulds is beginning to look a reasonable bet on a long-term recovery stock.

Anderson Strathclyde

Long-term promise

The Western world's commitment to doubling coal production by 1990 has established a promising horizon for mining equipment groups like Anderson Strathclyde. The shorter perspective, however, is far less encouraging.

Anderson struggled to push up pretax profits by 8 per cent to £6.3m on turnover up £12m to £84.2m last year, although comparisons are masked by the previous year's first-half loss after a damaging strike and subsequent second-half recovery. But the group has clearly been shaken by the sharpness of the downturn in National Coal Board orders in the final six months. Extensive short-time working was introduced and 400 workers—almost a tenth of the force—made redundant at a cost above the line of £840,000.

This exceptional cost was more than countered by an interest saving of over £1m helped by last August's £6m rights issue and the group claims to have seen some pick-up in short-delivery orders towards the year end. It is still far from clear, however, how and when the recent increase in the NCB's external financing level will work through into firm spending.

Meanwhile, low industrial production and the present oil glut, no matter how temporary, are hardly spurring Western governments to stick to their scheduled coal output at the moment. Policy in the United States, where Anderson is building new plant, remains far from clear.

All of which seems to point to a dull trading performance in the shorter term, with possibly some gain in the current year. This prospect makes yesterday's 21p rise shade expensive after a p/a ratio of almost 16 and yield of 5.7 per cent. But the balance sheet is strong and the spectre of Charter Consolidated, which picked up a 28 per cent stake in a dawn raid a year ago, should attract buyers on any significant weakness.

● There will be sighs of relief in the international banking fraternity at the news yesterday that Poland's Bank Handlowy has repaid the principal on a \$30m floating-rate note which could have caused the house of cards bankers have been so assiduously building in recent months to fall down. Bankers had been nervously looking at this particular loan since the failure of Poland to pay could have resulted in holders of the notes declaring the loan in default and triggering the sort of cross-default clauses that caused so many problems during the Iranian banking crisis eighteen months ago.

The Polish authorities had been arguing that this particular loan should be part of the general renegotiation of its debt irrespective of the fact that bond issues and bank loans are completely different transactions. Meanwhile, the new hard-line approach of the United States banks to rescheduling Polish debt, where the proposals had been proceeding almost too smoothly in view of the complexities involved, promises another cliff-hanger tomorrow at the meeting of the bankers' task force in Paris.

This afternoon the Government is due to publish the latest unemployment figures. The June total is likely to be up on last month's 2.5 million, a figure which includes nearly 1 million who have been out of work for more than six months.

Can anything be done for this group—the long-term unemployed?

According to the Treasury, it costs the Government £70 a week (in benefits and lost taxes) to have a man unemployed rather than employed. And the person in the predicament wants to work. So there would be gains all round if employed person back to work at a cost to itself of £70 a week.

This is not as easy as it might sound. General reflation is nowhere near self-financing, but well-designed "special measures" can provide jobs at much less net cost to the Government. Since they are targeted to disadvantaged groups they have three further advantages.

First, because the jobs are provided in the slackest parts of the labour market, they generate the least additional upwards pressure on wages. Secondly, since they are provided to the most deprived, they make for a fairer distribution of what jobs exist. Finally, the special measures show the Government as directly helping particular people who are in trouble.

The Government has understood all three arguments in relations to youth, but it has so far done very little for unemployed adults. One reason is that they are more difficult to help. They cannot be put in training positions at less than a full wage. They want real jobs on full pay, and it is in society's interest that these jobs be as productive as possible.

In my view, such jobs must be mainly provided in the regular part of the economy by the well-established employing organizations, the majority of which are in the private sector. They cannot be sufficiently provided by ad hoc publicly-supported projects of the job-creation variety.

So how can private employers be induced to hire the long-term unemployed? An ordinary recruitment subsidy would be no good, since it would lead mainly to so-called "churning", whereby long-term unemployed were hired in preference to other workers or short-term unemployed, with little net increase in jobs. This problem could be largely avoided if the payment of the subsidy were conditional on the firm not reducing its non-subsidized employment below its present level.

So the Government should undertake to pay any employer hiring a person who has been unemployed for over six months £70 a week for a year (or the equivalent lump sum of £3,500), provided he does not reduce his non-subsidized employment below its present level.

The reason for choosing £70 and a year is that £70 is the Exchequer cost of an unemployed person, and a year is roughly the amount of time that an unemployed person completing his first



six months of unemployment can nowadays expect to remain unemployed from now on. So if every person subsidized represented a net increase in employment, the scheme would be self-financing.

In fact of course there will be some deadweight cost to the Exchequer: some employers will be paid for doing what they would have done in any case. But that does not mean the scheme any more than investment subsidies are

damned by their deadweight cost. The scheme must be assessed in terms of overall benefit and cost.

For this purpose it has to be looked at as a subsidy to job increases, linked to the principle of targeting. As instruments for stimulating the economy, subsidies to job expansion are far better than the cuts in employers' national insurance contributions which the Confederation of British Industry is asking for.

For suppose the money given to

firms by way of a one percentage point reduction in the rate of NI were instead paid entirely in respect of additional workers employed, and suppose these additional workers were say 2 per cent of the workforce. Then the cost of an additional worker could be reduced by 50 per cent of his wages, instead of by 1 per cent. Clearly this gives a much more powerful boost to employment.

In fact in an article in the *Economic Journal* (March 1980) Stephen Nickell and I established that a job-expansion subsidy would imply a much lower Exchequer cost for each job than any type of conventional reflation.

The scheme would be of maximum benefit in manufacturing where it would greatly help to reduce the marginal cost of exports and import-competing goods. Moreover, while a general employment subsidy runs the risk of encouraging low productivity jobs, there need be little fear of this with a subsidy confined to expanding firms. The main role of the subsidy will be to bring forward jobs which would otherwise be created later in the recovery. This is exactly what is wanted.

The scheme should be announced with a life of say two years. Anything shorter will make too little impact, but equally a scheme of this kind cannot last for ever. If it were introduced boldly on the scale I have suggested, I see no reason why it should not generate over a quarter of a million jobs quite quickly.

Such a scheme will not, of course, cure the problem of the long-term unemployed.

Many of these people would be willing to work, even for nothing beyond the dole. The difficulty of providing them all with work is the sheer cost of paying them at the full rate for the job. But if people are willing to work for less than that, it is a crime to frustrate their desire to do something useful with their lives. If people are to be paid less than the rate for the job, relations with the unions require that this be done in totally self-contained projects that are not seen as subsidizing for work that would otherwise be done by "properly paid" workers.

So unfortunately the only way one can guarantee a right to work is to provide the fall-back jobs in separate publicly-supported projects of the job-creation variety. High enough to provide a meaningful work offer to a father of four, and not only to a single man. Yet if the father of four is to be paid say 120 per cent above his benefit level, it will be very expensive to pay the same to a single person as well. Ray must be no alternative to relating the pay to the individual's benefit level; if there is to be any chance of the Government being willing to meet the bill.

Richard Layard

The author is Professor of Economics at the London School of Economics and Head of the Centre for Labour Economics.

How junk television is taking over Italy's airwaves

A typical night's viewing in Rome, via private channel Charles Laughton is grinning through *La Tragedia del Benvenuto*; on another King Kong scales the Empire State Building for the umpteenth time.

The pulp output of Hollywood, known locally as *Televisione*, is in full flow everything from *Charlie's Angels* to *Cowboy in Africa*, *L'Incredibile Hulk* to *Dallas*. Somewhere amid the anarchy of the Italian airwaves sits the state broadcasting system RAI, its audience rapidly dwindling in the face of a television free-for-all unrivalled in the history of the medium.

RAI is worried. Its officers look forward with trepidation to August when its contract with the state must be renewed. "We are in the middle of the way, we are about to be flooded and what can we do?" asks one of them.

The answer seems to be nothing. With 636 companies operating nearly 800 channels up and down the country, the private sector has finally found its feet and is feeding the nation with just what it wants. When RAI monitored Italy's 90 largest stations last November, it found that 39 per cent of their output consisted of cinema films, 18 per cent made for television, 15 per cent further 9 per cent cartoons. The next largest category is advertising.

Largely untainted by any desire to carry current affairs or serious programming, the

private stations are attracting at least 30 per cent of the peak-time audience in Rome and Milan and the move away from RAI is gathering pace.

"The three RAI channels are so preoccupied and boring in themselves, with lots of talking heads and pompous people speaking to each other," says Massimo Fatti, managing editor of the Rome English language daily *International Daily News*. "People have just been turned off by it."

International Daily News already has its own radio station, pumping out a diet of pop music, and English language news from its newspaper offices. Now it is looking for private television station in Rome ripe for takeover. With at least 15 already operating there is no more room left on the airways for another new one.

The scramble to get on the air started in 1976 when RAI's broadcasting monopoly was ruled illegal by the constitutional court. Private television and radio could broadcast, as long as it did not interfere with RAI.

The other rapidly filled with independent stations set up for the time a £40,000 and putting out a good deal of late night soft porn—and some times the harder variety: the American sex film *Deep Throat* was shown on three consecutive nights by one Rome station.

Now the inflation has largely disappeared, to be replaced by

The latest money-maker is a variant on that ancient Roman custom—blackmail. Several radio and TV stations have paid out money to stop others jamming their output.

the endless round of feature films and cartoons.

"It all got too gross," Mr Fatti says. "The stations found that the money in advertising is in the family audience. It doesn't matter how many strip shows you've got—you have to put them on at a later hour. No one has got the money for genuine local production so the best thing to do is go to America to buy *Charlie's Angels*."

The private stations may have moved, in their own relative terms, "up-market", but their lack of money for making their own programmes still causes concern.

"We all know that sooner or later we have to become real television operators," says Signor Piero Ottone, a former editor of Italy's leading newspaper, *Corriere della Sera*.

who now runs the television operations of the Mondadori publishing empire. "Everyone's worry in Italy now is that we are having to scrape the barrel."

Mondadori, along with two other large publishers, Rizzoli and Bompiani, is playing an increasingly large part in the running of the private stations. Rizzoli is involved in a legal wrangle with the Government which, if successful, will allow the private stations to operate not just locally, but nationally—something which RAI regards with horror.

Mondadori has been more cautious. It is setting up a group which will sell programmes to private stations and act as an advertising agent. While this might have the advantage of a network, it does not involve Mondadori in direct ownership of a string of stations and consequently does not contravene the present law.

Bompiani has invested heavily in television—up to £25m—and has been rewarded with the leading position in Milan and second place in Rome. Signor Silvio Berlusconi confidently expects that he will top the private ratings in the capital very soon.

Few of the operators, large or small, can have made much money out of the stations. Advertising is plentiful but at extremely low rates. The ratecard of *International Daily News* for its planned Rome stations offers 60 seconds for about £30.

But it may prove that the political power of the stations is more desirable than any profits they may make. All shades of political opinions are now homing in on the operators in an attempt to win their support, with the Christian Democrats and Communists in the fore.

At some stage there must surely be legislation limiting the number of stations allowed in each region and restraining the growth of the large media groups. Mondadori's careful positioning as a supplier of programmes rather than an

outright station owner could prove to be a wise move. Supporters of free enterprise broadcasting tend to say that if left to themselves TV stations would end up producing a balanced diet of programmes, simply because that is what the public finally wants. The experience, at least of Italy, shows this not to be the case.

In Britain, it could be argued, of course that the viewing audience is more sophisticated because BBC has been in competition with a commercial network controlled by state guidelines—for more than 25 years.

But no one can deny the enterprise of the Italians. The latest money-maker is a variant on that ancient Roman custom—blackmail. Several radio and television stations have paid out money to stop others jamming their output with broadcasts on the same frequency.

The legality of the demands may be in doubt, but the jamming broadcasts themselves were perfectly legal. Anarchy may be a word which is much played with in Italy today, but in broadcasting it is a reality.

David Hewson

Bank Base Rates

ABN Bank	12%
Barclays	12%
BCCI	12%
Consolidated Credits	12%
C. Hoare & Co	12%
Lloyds Bank	12%
Midland Bank	12%
Nat Westminster	12%
TSB	12%
Williams and Glyn's	12%

* 7 day deposit on sums of £50,000 or more, 9% over £50,000 10%, 11% over £50,000 10%.

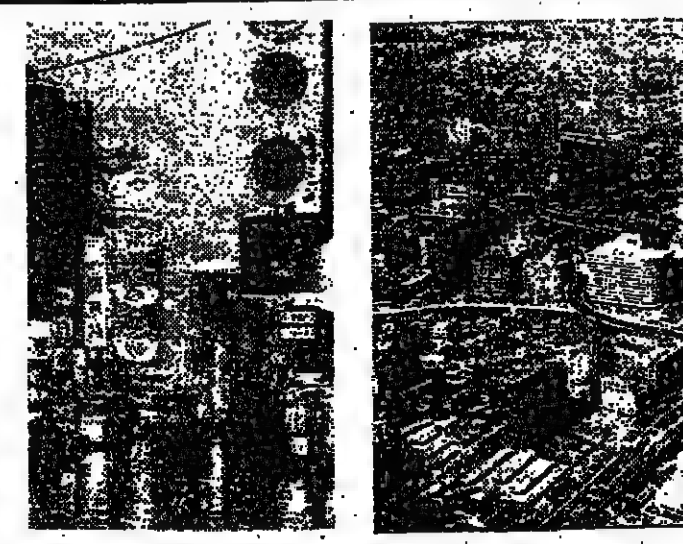
Business Diary: The greening of Osaka

Osaka This city is known as the Manchester of Japan. It has a textile tradition that runs as deep as the summer—although there the similarity stops. The temperature here does not fall much below 70°F and climbs into the nineties when the sun comes out.

The population of Osaka has been dropping since 1975, when people began moving out to elsewhere in the Kansai region where there is more space and greenery. With 2.6 million inhabitants, Osaka now ranks third in size among Japanese cities, after Tokyo and Yokohama.

It is not difficult to see why people should prefer to live in neighbouring towns such as Kyoto, Nara and Kobe. Osaka presents an almost unbroken expanse of concrete to the eye and after even a few days here one longs for grass and trees. The municipality is aware of this deficiency and is gradually increasing the green areas of the city by planting trees and creating parks.

The textile industry remains the largest local employer, although in terms of turnover it has long been overtaken by electronics. Matsushita, Sanyo and Sharp have their headquarters in Osaka and have all done much to make Japan the world leader in consumer electronics.

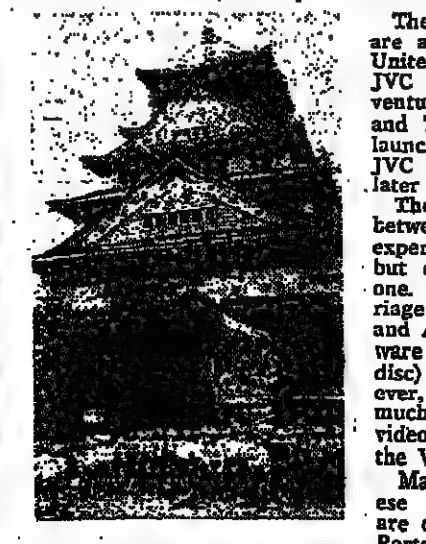


Osaka, Japan—the Manchester of the East: (left to right), the treeless, downtown business district and Osaka Castle.

try is the video cassette recorder (VCR), with which the Japanese have captured 95 per cent of the world market. According to Takauchi Yamaoto of the Nomura Research Institute, about eight million VCRs will be made this year worth £2,300m—enough one day to overtake colour television as a revenue earner.

By the end of this decade a combined television and VCR cassette recorder is today. At the same time video tape is expected to replace 8mm and 16mm film in cine-cameras. With almost complete domination of this market, Japanese electronics companies have struck an unprecedentedly rich vein of gold.

Matsushita, the largest electric concern in this country, leads the field in VCR production. Last year it turned over 1.2 million of them, over a quarter of Japanese production. The VHS system, invented by



wet night in shopping centre.

its JVC subsidiary, accounted for two-thirds of total output in Japan, the remainder going to Sony's rival Betamax system. Both Matsushita and JVC are trying to shift some VCR production overseas. Matsushita is talking to Bosch about a VCR plant in West Germany and JVC plans a joint venture with Thorn EMI, Thomson Brandt and Telefunken for the manufacture of VCR video cameras.

video disc players in Germany, France and Britain. The price is expected to be between \$650 and \$700, more expensive than the RCA player but cheaper than the Philips one. It is hoped that the marriage of Japanese hardware and American and British software (the films to record on this disc) will prove a success. However, Japanese companies are much less confident about the video disc than they are about the VCR.

Many of the skills of Japanese electronics manufacturers are on display this summer at Portopia 81, a huge exhibition organized by the neighbouring city of Kobe to celebrate the completion of stage one of a land reclamation programme.

By slicing the tops of mountains and dumping them in the sea just off its waterfront, the city has created a 436 hectare artificial island to accommodate a container port, a hotel and a conference centre, housing a primary school, a hospital, shops and restaurants. A second artificial island, bigger than the first, is now under construction and has already attracted industrial investment.

Two prominent features of

Portopia 81, which looks forward to the twenty-first century, are the exploitation of natural energy such as the sun, wind and the tides, and the use of computers in the home. The roofs of the Matsushita and Sanyo pavilions are covered with solar panels which power their air conditioning systems. The Matsushita pavilion also relies on a wind tower with a propeller.

While its neighbour has been launching its great exhibition, Osaka has provided Japan with a new craze—tea-rooms or *Kissaten*—where the waitresses are clad in nothing but fishnet tights and an apron. They are the latest in a line of fashions for this type of establishment in Japan.

In the 1970s, coffee shops where customers could have records of classical music of their choice played were popular. These were followed by the "empty orchestra" fad, where you could sing your favourite songs against a recorded orchestra background.

The police are said to be keeping an eye on the spread of the new-style tea-rooms, which though they charge around £3.50, five times the normal rate for a cup of coffee, they do at least demonstrate that even in Osaka there is something that video will never replace.

Simon Scott-Plummer

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited

27/28 Lovat Lane London EC3R 8EB Telephone 01-621 1212

The Over-the-Counter Market

1980/81	High	Low	Company	Price	Ch	Gross	Yld	Full
76	39	Airsprung Group	63	—	4.7	6.9	10.8	14.9
52	21	Armstrong & Rhodes	47	—	1.4	3.0	19.3	44.8
200	92	Bardon Hill	200	—	9.7	4.9	7.5	12.8
104	85	Deborah Services	102	—	5.5	5.4	5.0	9.6
125	88	Frank Horsell	104	—	6.4	6.2	3.3	6.0
110	39	Frederick Parker	63	—	1.7	2.7	27.4	—
110	64	George Blair	64	—	3.1	4.8	—	—
110	39	Jackman Group	108	—	7.0	6.5	3.4	7.7
130	105	James Burroughs	130	—	8.7	6.7	10.7	10.7
334	244	Robert Jenkins	315	—	31.3	9.9	—	—
55	50	Stratons "A"	55	—	5.3	9.6	8.5	7.9
224	196	Torday Limited	198	—	15.1	7.6	7.6	15.1
23	8	Twillock Ltd	141	—	—	—	—	—
90	68	Twillock 15% ULS	79	—	13.0	19.0	—	—
56	35	Unilock Holdings	40	—	3.0	7.5	6.2	9.8
103	81	Walter Alexander	103	—	5.7	3.5	5.7	8.1
262	161	W. S. Yeates	233	—	13.1	5.2	14.0	9.7

FINANCIAL NEWS

Stock markets

US interest hopes spur gilts

The market's belief that United States interest rates will shortly stabilise made for another strong performance in gilts.

Equities, relieved by the fact that the BP rights issue announcement was out of the way, also made progress, but with investors now awaiting dealings in the new shares, later today, business was described as thin.

The usual round of weekend press comment provided some interest, and electricals were sought after in a thin market ahead of some major company results due this week.

The FT Index closed at its highest point for the day 2.9 higher at 544.3. The prospect of lower United States interest rates before long saw gilts on the rise of up to 1.1 first thing, which surprised many jobbers. After going 1.1 higher at one point, prices paused for a spot of profit taking after lunch before recovering again after hours. Even news of further increases in United States prime rates by 1 per cent to 20 per cent made little impression. At the close, gilts were showing gains of 1.1 to 1.8 with short 2 better.

Leading industrial spent another quiet day although prices generally were higher at the close. However, BOC International lost ground, falling 1p to 23p on news that 73 per cent of the convertible rights issue had been left with the underwriters. But elsewhere, ICI added 4p to 286p, Becton Dickinson 2p to 219p, Glaxo 2p to 366p, Unilever 2p to 580p, British Aerospace 3p to 223p and Courtauld 1p to 68p, but profit taking left Dunlop 2p easier at 78p.

BOC Oil Services made a bright debut on the USM climbing to 19p over the placing

pricing of 10p. Recent newcomer Star Computers reacted to comment, slipping 13p at 198p.

Shares of Harris & Sheldon were suspended at 32p amid talk of a bid from the Far East. An inquiry into recent share dealings has been called for.

Weekend comment was good for 3p on Hanson Trust at 286p, 6p on MEPC at 229p, 4p on Nippon at 10p. Recent newcomer Star Computers reacted to comment, slipping 13p at 198p.

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Fears of increased banking charges hit mail order groups with Gratian 2p off at 92p, Freeman 2p lower at 118p and Fide Art Developments a similar figure at 110p.

Heavy buying was reported in electricals where some important trading news is expected this week. Rascal hardened 11p to 376p and Plessey 7p to 330p while Ferranti held steady at 51.5p, all ahead of figures.

Small profits expansion lifted Henderson's Strategic 21p to 101p and Davenport 21p to 184p. Walker & Staff was unchanged at 23p, but James Cropper relapsed 5p to 133p after a profits reduction. Losses slipped 10p from Applied Computer. Techniques at 62p, Powell Duffryn jumped 9p to 286p ahead of figures on Friday, while recovery hopes boosted Jones Woodhead 6p to 38p.

Trusthouse Forte added 3p to 158p after conceding defeat over its battle with Savoy. "A", down 5p at 186p. Elsewhere, speculation in attention lifted Notts Manufacturing 11p to 143p and Tern Consultancy 14p to 62p while profit taking after a good run wiped 5p from Polly Peck at 363p and 3p from Cornhill Dresses at 179p.

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
£m	£m	£m	per share	pence	date	total
At or Fin	1.1	0.75(0.72)	5.07(5.38)	0.3(-)	14/8	0.5(0.5)
Applied Computer (F)	7.15(5.56)	0.3(0.27)	10.4(11.4)	3(3)	7/8	4(4)
Andrew Strickland (F)	84.3(72.3)	0.25(0.27)	0.7(1.01)	1.5(2.5)	12/8	2.2(4.0)
Brigden (F)	0.54(0.19)	0.1(0.88)	1.12(0.8)	5.67(4.9)	12/8	5.5(7.9)
J Cropper (F)	15.02(13.7)	0.12(0.8)	1.12(0.8)	2.1(2.1)	12/8	2.5(2.5)
Davenport Kellor (F)	1.12(0.8)	0.56(1.06)	14.5(20.3)	2.0(2.0)	12/8	(6.8)
J Grant (East) (F)	13.9(13.7)	2.23(2.59)	5.94(3.41)	1.35(1.35)	11/8	1.35(1.35)
Great Nith Inv (I)	(-)	0.07(0.198)	2.34(6.27)	2.6(5.2)		
Kraft Foods (F)	1.32(1.53)	0.07(0.198)	2.34(6.27)	2.6(5.2)		
Walker & Staff (F)	2.32(3.29)	0.07(0.198)	2.34(6.27)	2.6(5.2)		
Whitbread (F)	28.4(40.4)					

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. * = Loss.

Briefly

James Grant (East): Turnover for the year to January 31 was £13.9m (43.3p). Earnings per share were 14.9p (20.3p). The firm was 14p gross (same). Chairman Mr. J. Grant said that the annual statement says that to make a forecast for the current year is exceptionally difficult. There are still no signs of an upturn in the United Kingdom economy.

Thos Lockers (Holdings): Chairman Mr. J. Lockers said that the annual statement says that to make a forecast for the current year is exceptionally difficult. There are still no signs of an upturn in the United Kingdom economy.

Kraft Foods: No dividend. Waterbottom Energy Trust: The net asset value per ordinary share at close of business on June 19 was 73.5p after deduction of prior charges at par and 75.1p after deduction of prior charges at market value.

Formister: Following recent acquisitions, Monks Investment Trust now holds 250,000 shares (6.88 per cent).

Flight Refuelling (Holdings): The annual meeting has approved the agreement and plan of merger of April 14 between Stanley Aviation of Denver and Flight Refuelling. It is expected that the merger will become effective by June 30.

London Securities Placements: After further acceptance of its offer, Harrison & Crossfield now holds 186,818 shares and has a total interest at June 22 of 14,659,642 shares (92.02 per cent).

Airflow Streamlines: Both divisions continue to be affected by the current recession, particularly the production section of the manufacturing division. The board remains confident that progress will be resumed when the economy recovers from the recession.

Walker and Staff Holdings (engineering supplies): On turnover down from £3.29m to £2.92m in the year to March 31, 1981, pretax profit dropped from £198,000 to £70,000. CCA pretax profit: £50,000. Total dividend unchanged at 1.92p gross.

Great Northern Investment Trust: Pretax revenue for half-year to May 31, 1981, £2.85m (2.85p). Interim payment: 2.85p gross (same). Board intends to maintain final at 6.57p gross.

Development costs slow ACT

High expenditure on new systems slowed profits growth last year at Applied Computer Techniques (ACT), the Birmingham software group.

Shares in the group, which are traded under the Stock Exchange rule 163 (2), dropped given when the group launched back 10p to 133p after it announced a profits rise of less than 5 per cent to £756,000 pre-tax compared with a 97 per cent rise the previous year.

In line with the forecast an £800,000 rights issue a year ago, a final dividend of 0.47p takes the total for the year to 0.7 gross.

Mr. Lindsay Bury, chairman, said yesterday that profits growth would have been much higher but for continued spending on software to be used with the new ACT series 800 micro computer system. In addition, the second half was hit by closure costs of marginal activities associated with ACT's 1979 takeover of Computer Proof.

Mr. Bury says that the group's financial position remains extremely strong, with net cash balances of £800,000. Although he is cautious about the first half of this year, he says that medium-term prospects remain very good.

ACT shares were issued in March 1979 at a price of 135p and stand at almost three times that value, allowing for a two-for-one scrip issue in November.

USM quotation for Acsis postponed for a week

By Michael Clark

Charterhouse Japhet has had to postpone the placing of its latest candidate for the Unlisted Securities Market, Acsis Jewellery, following a technical hitch.

Acsis, in which Charterhouse holds 45 per cent, was due to announce on Wednesday the placing of £5m, 10p shares, or roughly 40 per cent of the company. But a last minute meeting to decide on a placing price, capital structure and profits forecast broke up last night after all parties had decided on a postponement.

Back in 1974, Mr. Gerson Kesner, then a qualified accountant, decided to enter the jewellery trade and bought for a nominal sum the retail interests of Acsis.

Through his shop-in-shop system he set about building up the group's retail outlets, renting floor space in prime sites

from already established stores. At present the group has 64 retail outlets with three at Fulham Road, The Market Covent Garden and Wood Green Shopping City, catering for the higher-priced range of women's jewellery. The rest cater for products within the £2 to £75 range.

Mr. Kesner maintains that this system cuts down on group overheads and enables much needed income to be channelled into the design and manufacture of jewellery.

More than a third of the group's sales range is made by its Richmond division, with the rest available for sale to wholesale customers.

At the same time, Acsis is in the process of building up its lucrative mail order business, which trades under the name of the Privilege Collection.

Second-half loss for J Cropper

James Cropper, the Cumbria-based paper manufacturer, saw its pretax profit slump from £887,000 to just £100,000 in the year to March 28, 1981. And this was in spite of group turnover expanding from £13.7m to £15.02m. The total dividend, on a gross basis, is being cut from 5.71p to 3.57p. This means that Cropper made a loss in the second half-year, but it has now returned to profit and has a full order book. Prospects for the remainder of the year are better than last year, the board reports.

Business appointments

Racal-Dana operations chief named

Mr. Paul Francis has been appointed as director of operations of Racal-Dana Instruments.

Mr. Alan R. Titchener has been appointed as the new chairman of the Channel Tunnel Association.

Mr. H. F. Baur, at present a director of BILTON (UK), has been appointed managing director of Bilton Metals & Ores International in the Hague. On taking up this new appointment Mr. Baur will cease to be a director of Bilton (UK).

Lord Birdwood and Lord Kilmarlock have become vice-presidents of The Institute of Sales and Marketing Management.

Mr. Patrick Gee has been appointed managing director of Roadchef. Mr. Gee succeeds founding managing director Mr. Clive D. Lindley, who remains chairman of the company, part of the LCI Group. Mr. Gee remains financial director and company secretary of the LCI Group. Mr. Mike Smellie, formerly Roadchef's chief accountant, becomes the new company secretary.

Mr. F. W. Brown has been appointed director of BSR.

Mr. P. W. Sharman, director and chief general manager of Norwich Union Group has been appointed chairman of Norwich Winterthur Holdings.

Mr. John Chesworth has been appointed a director of Bodycote International.

Mr. Gordon Crawford and Mr. R. Derek Webb, directors of Cable Belt are to retire. Mr. Crawford will continue his association with the company as a part-time consultant.

Mr. John Paisley and Mr. John O'Connor will be admitted to the partnership of McCaughan Oyon & Company, Australian stock and share brokers. Mr. Paisley will remain as London manager.

Mr. T. G. J. Lewis has become chief executive officer of the Royal Arsenal Cooperative Society, succeeding Mr. J. H. Walker, who has retired.

Mr. Alan A. Carr, manager of the Fenchurch Street branch of Lloyds Bank, has been appointed honorary treasurer and a director of the City Arts Trust.

Harris & Sheldon suspended for bid talks

Warwickshire group Harris & Sheldon, whose interests range from Antler luggage to shotguns, kitchen units and lifts, is holding friendly talks with an unnamed potential bidder. The shares were suspended at 32p yesterday, capitalising the group at £12.7m, pending an announcement.

Mr. James Miller, chairman, has asked merchant bank S. G. Warburg to look into two call options written in the stock last week. Mr. Miller said that this was an unusual event for Harris & Sheldon, and its timing caused both parties in the talks some concern. Mr. Robert Davenport, of Warburg, confirmed last night that the group may seek a Stock Exchange intervention into the circumstances surrounding these call options.

Harris & Sheldon's shares have been dull recently, but yesterday they gained 2p to 32p, before being suspended in the interest of shareholders.

The bid talks would not have been revealed yesterday but for the concern over the call options. Mr. Miller and Mr. Davenport last night refused to comment on suggestions that the potential bidder may be a Hongkong-based group. Talks began in earnest about a week ago, after an approach to Harris & Sheldon.

A more detailed announcement should be available within the next ten days, Mr. Miller said yesterday. Harris & Sheldon's first half ends on June 30, and the coming announcement will probably give an indication of how trading is going. Mr. Davenport said in 1980 pretax profits dipped from £4.52m to £3.1m, although sales were nearly £3m higher at £48.3m. Most of the group's profits came from its capital goods businesses. Gross dividends of 4.3p were paid in 1980.

Harris & Sheldon has interests in property investment and management and is involved in a wide range of industrial activities. There was speculation in the market yesterday that its sound asset base may have attracted the bid attention. At December 31, 1980, its assets per share were 56.6p, well above both yesterday's 52p suspension price.

Britannic Assurance, which has 10.25 per cent of the group's shares, was taken by surprise by yesterday's bid and preferred not to comment.

Whitcroft cuts payout as profits tumble



Mr. John Tavaré, chairman of Whitcroft.

Manchester textiles and engineering group, Whitcroft, failed to live up to earlier expectations in the second half and left the group with full-year profits to March 31 of just £1.73m before tax, compared with £4.57m a year earlier. Dividends total 5.5p gross, half the 1979-80 level. The shares dipped 2p to 64p yesterday.

After the first-half profit of £875,000, Mr. John Tavaré, chairman, said the group expected to do better in the second six months of the year. But then fresh cuts in public spending hit its building and engineering supplies division hard and put paid to the group's hopes. The division's profits fell from £2.21m in 1979-80 to just £476,000 before tax.

Meanwhile, textiles were hit on two fronts, with doubled American imports of finished sheering hitting commissioned finished textiles, and poor demand for industrial textiles,

textiles contributed £1.03m pre-tax, down from £2.27m.

Moortie Electrical made fresh progress, but Raddalls has been closed. Extraordinary debits of £4.21m include its costs, but largely reflect the cost of cutting down Thomas Ryder before selling off the business separately from the buildings and equipment. Group engineering profits of £1.82m, against £1.63m, were struck after losses of £275,000 from mRyder before its sale.

Group sales were £89.5m down from £101.5m. Interest costs were slightly lower at £2.22m against £2.77m. Borrowings have dropped £1m to £13m since the year-end, and have fallen steadily since their January 1980 peak of £17m. Mr. Tavaré said yesterday. There is no sign of any improvement in Whitcroft's markets, but internal improvements are expected to allow whether profits this year.

especially in the automotive and general engineering industries. However, Edward Hall, Europe's leading cotton wall, manufacturer, did well. Overall,

Wimpey house sales slower

Sir Reginald Smith, chairman of George Wimpey, told shareholders at the annual meeting that although sales of private houses were buoyant in the early months of the year they had been rather less so in recent weeks.

Worldwide interest rates and inflation had been steadily rising, creating difficult trading conditions for an international contractor. Generally, the recession at home and abroad had led to increasing pressure on margins. Since it was not group policy to chase unprofitable work which could only store up problems for the future, work booked in recent months had been running at a somewhat lower level than in the same months of 1980.

Looking ahead, he was confident of the group's long-term prospects and its ability to participate fully in the economic upturn when it came.

Another US deal for Laird Group

London-based Laird Group reports its second takeover in the United States in less than a year. It has bought Amesbury Industries for \$4.2m (about £2.13m). Of this, \$3.6m was paid on completion and the

rest will be paid early next year. Amesbury makes woven pile weatherseal for windows and doors. It has a significant share of the United States market. Last October Laird bought New York Twist Drill for \$52.5m.

Warning from Whitbread chief

Current levels of trade in the brewing industry are again significantly below those of the previous year, to such an extent that, over the two-year period, it would appear that the beer market could decline by as much as 8 to 9 per cent, Mr. C. H. Tidbury, the chairman of Whitbread, says in his annual report.

Whitbread is continuing to adjust its levels of activity to these reduced volumes, while protecting its own margins.

Outlook difficult at Continho

The outcome for the first four months of 1981 at Continho Caro, suppliers of steel and chemicals, was indifferent and the group will have to struggle to equal the 1980 results, let alone repeat the record results of 1979, it says.

Sales for the year to December fell from £154.5m to £126.8m and net profit after tax was down from £23.2m to £2.7m.

BSG International expects small profit

Mr. Thomas Cannon, told shareholders at BSG International that as the new chairman he was pleased to be able to report a reversal of the loss of 1980. The first quarter of 1981 had produced a small profit after interest charges and this trend had continued for the first five months of the year.

The board was confident of showing a small profit during the first half of the year.

Rise at Property Partnerships

Property Partnerships, which owns and develops commercial property for investment, has lifted profits from £667,000 to £737,000 in the year to March 31 and has made a final dividend payment of 7.1p gross. Weatherall Green and Smith has valued the group's investment and hotel properties held at March 31 at £14m.



THE SHIRES LOVE OUR ALES

Lancashire and Hampshire, of course. Durham and Kent, too. Yorkshire and Devon, naturally. Although a national company, Whitbread have never stopped being a local brewer.

Today we have many local breweries throughout Britain producing beers to suit the local taste. And can offer you a choice of no less than forty different ales. From nationally-known names like Trophy Best Bitter and Tankard to local beers such as Pompey Royal, Flowers Original and Welsh Bitter.

How did it all begin? As a company, we learned a simple lesson from Samuel Whitbread back in 1742. He had a lot of competition when he started out as a brewer in the City of London. And became pre-eminent by producing the taste people appreciated most at the time.

We merely extended the principle by continuing to brew a wide range of ales across the whole country. As a result, even at a time of recession, the company remains as successful and competitive as Samuel Whitbread would have wished.

OUR RESULTS

Year to 28th February 1981

	£000's	Year to 28.2.81	Year to 1.3.80
Turnover		782,148	720,259
Profit before taxation		66,388	61,813
Ordinary dividends		16,885	14,648
Retained in the business		49,503	39,654
Earnings per share		22.72p	21.56p
Dividend per share		6.70p	6.00p
Dividend cover		3.39	3.59
Added value per full-time employee		£12,062	£9,906

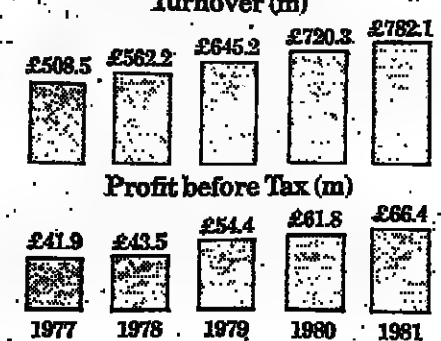
WEATHERING THE STORM

Points from the Report by the Chairman, Mr. Charles Tidbury, for the year ended 28th February 1981.

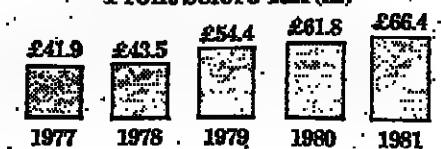
Profits before tax increased by 7.4%, and turnover by 8.8%. I think these results are satisfactory under the prevailing conditions, but they must be measured against an inflation rate of almost 17%. Beer sales were roughly in line with the industry's, which were estimated to be about 5% down. This drop in volume occurred across all trade sectors, but within that our local ales continued to perform well. Larger accounted for an increasing share of total beer sales. Current levels of trade in the brewing industry are again significantly below those of the previous year. However, our people have shown great skill, initiative and resourcefulness this year, which gives me confidence that we are coming through the present recession successfully.

FIVE YEAR RECORD

Turnover (m)



Profit before Tax (m)



James Cropper & Company Limited

The following are our unaudited preliminary figures for the year ending 28th March 1981.

	1981 £000	1980 £000
Turnover	15,022	13,716
Trading Profit	580	1,148
Interest	480	261
Profit before Taxation	100	887
Advance Corporation Tax	17	27
Profit after Taxation	83	860
Dividend: 4% on 1,600,000 Shares of 25p each	16	24 (6%)
6% on 1,600,000 Shares of 25p each (proposed)	24	40 (10%)
Balance Transferred to Reserves	43	796

Note: The Company has now returned to profit after a loss in the second half of last year and has a full order book at present. The recent fall in the value of sterling against the dollar will however affect margins until raw material cost increases can be recovered in selling prices. The new No. 4 Machine is now running satisfactorily and the prospects for the rest of the year are better than last year.

WHITBREAD LTD FOR CHOICE

Whitbread and Company Limited, Annual General Meeting: 12 noon, Tuesday, 21st July, 1981, Brewery, Chiswell Street, London EC1Y 4SD.

LET THE GIN BE

Really Dry Gin.

HIGH & DRY

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

<p>* Ex dividend, a Ex all, b Forecast dividend, c Corrected price, d Initial payment paid, e Price at suspension, f Dividend and yield exclude a special payment, h Bid for company, i Pre-merger figures, j Forecast earnings, k Earnings attributable to Ex holders, l Ex split or share split, m Tax free, y Price adjusted for later dealings, n Significant data.</p>	
RECENT ISSUES	
	Closing Price
Allied Residential 10p Ord (38)	30
Amalgamated 10p Ord (2000) (40n)	20
Cranbridge Electronic 25p Ord (75)	20
Cromlech Group 34p Ord 1993-96 (Pz)	1989-1
Intarun 10p Ord	70
Lasing Props 84p Cnv Lst 2000-45 (100)	2100
Leeds City of 12 1/2p Ord 1994-2000 (100)	1200
Long Shun 10p Ord 1994-2000 (100)	100
Munton Bros 10p Ord (18)	12
Northampton 10p Ord (100)	10
Newcastle Water 74p Ord PF 1808 (100)	1808
Phoenixem 10p Cnv Ord and Pref (15)	1176
Swansea City of 15p Ord Red 2000 (100a)	1500
Treasury 11p Ord (100)	233-4
NIGHTS ISSUES	
	Latest n/
	main
ACB Research (100)	Sep 4
Amalgamated (100)	Sep 4
Change Water (100)	Sep 4
Crouch C (100)	Sep 4
European (100)	Sep 4
European Perfect (375)	Sep 4
Geens Group (100)	Sep 4
<p>* Issue price in parentheses, ** Ex dividend, y Issue to hold, z All paid, a 2500 paid, b 2500 paid, c 2500 paid, d 2500 paid, e 2500 paid, f 2500 paid, g 2500 paid, h 2500 paid, i 2500 paid, j 2500 paid, k 2500 paid, l 2500 paid, m 2500 paid, n 2500 paid, o 2500 paid, p 2500 paid, q 2500 paid, r 2500 paid, s 2500 paid, t 2500 paid, u 2500 paid, v 2500 paid, w 2500 paid, x 2500 paid, y 2500 paid, z 2500 paid, aa 2500 paid, ab 2500 paid, ac 2500 paid, ad 2500 paid, ae 2500 paid, af 2500 paid, ag 2500 paid, ah 2500 paid, ai 2500 paid, aj 2500 paid, ak 2500 paid, al 2500 paid, am 2500 paid, an 2500 paid, ao 2500 paid, ap 2500 paid, aq 2500 paid, ar 2500 paid, as 2500 paid, at 2500 paid, au 2500 paid, av 2500 paid, aw 2500 paid, ax 2500 paid, ay 2500 paid, az 2500 paid, ba 2500 paid, bb 2500 paid, bc 2500 paid, bd 2500 paid, be 2500 paid, bf 2500 paid, bg 2500 paid, bh 2500 paid, bi 2500 paid, bj 2500 paid, bk 2500 paid, bl 2500 paid, bm 2500 paid, bn 2500 paid, bo 2500 paid, bp 2500 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PERSONAL CHOICE



Nine-year-old Annie Gelpy with a playful pair of serval cubs which are being looked after by C.A.R.E., a charity that finds homes for unwanted wild animals (see page 17).

© FACELIFT (BBC 1 9.25 pm) is an investigation by Harold Williams into the cosmetic surgery boom. He talks to the men and women who believe that with a £1,000 or more they are able to buy a new face, body or even persona. Included in the programme are interviews with surgeons themselves who tout their trade in the advertising columns of the national dailies. Not all of them do that, however. Some have a business manager who in one case, travels the country following up replies from his £100,000 a year advertising campaign. In whichever part of the country the client lives he will sub-contract the operation to a local surgeon, one of a chain up and down the country. The medical profession is becoming increasingly anxious about the spread of these clinics, the low standard of work (it is estimated that 20 per cent of patients are dissatisfied with the results of their operation) and post-operative care. The programme also contrasts NHS cosmetic surgery with that of the private clinics.

© S.S. 1934-1945 (ITV 10.30 pm) is a documentary about the growth of Hitler's career from a small town in Austria to the European even during the days of World War Two. To make this film Andrew Molloy has interviewed past members of the organisation and some of its victims. It is a frightening history of oppression. During its existence it is estimated that some twenty-five million civilians, including four million Jews, were murdered by them on Hitler's orders. Included in the programme is a great deal of previously unseen film footage illustrating the methods adopted by this army. The third part of the documentary is certainly not for the squeamish. There are some horrific scenes from the concentration camps, both during and after the war, and of mass shootings after the victims had dug their own graves. It is a programme that visually shocks but not for the sake of it, and is of historical great interest. Anthony Valentine in the narrator's role is superb. Next week's programme will be a more personal one, as the narrator's son, Ian, tells of his father's life and how he overcame the same disability.

© NO HANDICAP (Radio 4 4.15 pm) is the first of two programmes in which two musicians, both successful in their own field, talk about how they overcome physical disability to become the success they are. This afternoon rock star Les Bury discusses polio which immobilized him in early life and seemingly put paid to any chance of him performing in the violently physical world of rock concerts, a world in which only a few able-bodied characters have learnt to survive. In the light of his illness, the title of one of his most successful songs - "Reasons to be Cheerful" - becomes like the more pertinent. Next week's programme will be a more personal one, as the narrator's son, Ian, tells of his father's life and how he overcame the same disability.

SYMBOLS KEY: (STEREO); (BLACK AND WHITE); (REPEAT).

Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Dear

TELEVISION

BBC 1

6.40 am Open University: Diabetes: Restoring the Balance. 7.05 Milk Bottles. 7.30 Continental Arks. Closedown at 7.55.
9.05 For Schools: Colleges: French conversation. 9.35 The Brendan Voyage. 9.58 Capricorn Game. 11.00 With the Staff of Eristo. 11.17 Television Club. Closedown at 11.37.
12.55 pm Pöbel y Cwm. Welsh serial. 1.30 The Plumps (r). 1.45 News.
1.55 Wimbledon 81. Live coverage of the Ladies' Singles first round matches being played on the Centre and Number One courts. There is also live coverage on BBC 2 at 2.15 and highlights on BBC 1 and 10.20 on BBC 2.
4.20 Play School. For the under-fives (shown earlier on BBC 2) 4.45 The Record Breakers. Roy Castle and Norrie McWhirter delve into the book of records to find some more superlatives (r). 5.10 John Craven's Newsround. Intelligently presented news for young people. 5.15 Ask Aspel. Mike presents more requested clips from recent BBC television programmes and has in the studio to answer questions the incredible inventor of things extraordinary, Wilf Lunn.
5.40 News read by Kenneth Kendall. 5.55 Regional news magazines.
6.20 Wimbledon 81. Highlights from today's first round matches in the Ladies' Singles and Championship introduced by Harry Carpenter.
7.15 Medical Express. The first of a new series presented by Hilary Hanson and Chris Serle that looks at everything that medicine can offer.
7.45 Film: The Alpha Capers (1973) starring Henry Fonda, Roy Castle and Leonard Maltin. The usually upright Mr. Fonda plays a forcibly-retired probation officer who gangs up with some of his former parolees to rob a heavily guarded convey of several million dollars.
9.00 News read by Kenneth Kendall.

BBC 2

6.40 am Open University: Le Corbusier: Villa Savoye. 7.05 Man-made Macromolecules. 7.30 The study of drawings. Closedown at 7.55.
10.30 Supermarket. Staying on Top in the title of this last programme in the series for Supervisors in Industry (r). Interval at 10.55.
11.00 Play School. Today's story for seven to nine-year-olds: The King Who Liked Chocolate. Starring Julia Michaels and the presenters are Sarah Long and Johnny Ball. Closedown at 11.25.
2.00 pm You and Me. For the very young (r).
2.15 Wimbledon 81. Live coverage of the first round matches in the Ladies' Singles Championship being played on the Centre and Number One courts introduced by Hilary Hanson and Chris Serle. 2.30 News including a sub-edited synopsis for the hard-of-hearing.
7.40 Images of War. Three cameramen recall their experiences of filming action at sea.
8.00 International Dressage from Goodwood House. Commentary by Dorian Williams and Guy Larrigan on the Incheape Championships which have attracted riders from all over Europe and Canada as well as Britain.
8.30 The Theatre Quiz. Two experts with a theatrical background compete against each other to see which of them knows the most about their

Thames

9.30 am For Schools: Simple mathematics; 9.47 What we see when the tide goes down; 10.30 How to write a report; 10.30 The movement of immigrant labour; 11.05 Mathematics for seven to nine-year-olds; 11.25 The job of a health visitor; 11.39 An interview with Peter Bain.
12.00 Paperplay. Susan Stranks shows her friends how to make jar decorations (r). 12.10 pm Pippins (r). 12.30 The Sullivan. Drama serial about an Australian family during World War Two.
1.00 News. 1.20 Thames News. 1.30 About Britain. Brent Sadler reports from Weston-super-Mare on how the local council attracts holidaymakers despite the risk of rain weather. 2.00 After No. 15. A Summer Season. The pros and cons of losing weight (r). 2.45 The Spoils of War. The final episode in the serial about how two Northern families come to terms with life after the Second World War (r). 3.45 Looks Familiar. Carol Channing, George Arliss and Sheridan Morley reminisce with Denis Norden about the stars and their acts of the Thirties and Forties (r).
4.15 Cartoon: Hairied and Hurried featuring Road Runner. 4.30 Reasoning. Games and live music in a studio packed with children. 4.45 Ace Reports on the charity for the Care and Rehabilitation of Endangered Species. 5.15 Emmerdale Farm. Meat and drink is not too keen on having dinner with the Hasbells.
5.45 News. 6.00 Thames News with Andrew Gardner and Rita Carter.
6.25 Help! Viv Taylor Gee with news of three community projects that need assistance. 6.35 Assurance. Adam Chance jokes Kevin Banks a good turn. 7.00 Mind Over Matter. Tony Bostable reviews some of the important issues that have been raised during the series. 7.30 Charlie's Angels. Kelly is

BBC 2

9.25 Facilit. Harold Williams reports on the Cosmetic Surgery Business (see Personal Choice).
10.15 Goodbye Darling... Barbara by James Mitchell. After twenty years of marriage Barbara realises she has been taken for granted by her husband and her three grown-up children. What will she do to make them aware of her feelings? Faith Brook is Barbara.
10.55 International Athletics. Highlights from the first day of the match between Great Britain, West Germany and Poland from Crystal Palace introduced by David Coleman.
11.45 News headlines and weather.

Regions

11.45 News. 11.55 News. 12.00 News. 12.05 News. 12.10 News. 12.15 News. 12.20 News. 12.25 News. 12.30 News. 12.35 News. 12.40 News. 12.45 News. 12.50 News. 12.55 News. 1.00 News. 1.05 News. 1.10 News. 1.15 News. 1.20 News. 1.25 News. 1.30 News. 1.35 News. 1.40 News. 1.45 News. 1.50 News. 1.55 News. 2.00 News. 2.05 News. 2.10 News. 2.15 News. 2.20 News. 2.25 News. 2.30 News. 2.35 News. 2.40 News. 2.45 News. 2.50 News. 2.55 News. 3.00 News. 3.05 News. 3.10 News. 3.15 News. 3.20 News. 3.25 News. 3.30 News. 3.35 News. 3.40 News. 3.45 News. 3.50 News. 3.55 News. 4.00 News. 4.05 News. 4.10 News. 4.15 News. 4.20 News. 4.25 News. 4.30 News. 4.35 News. 4.40 News. 4.45 News. 4.50 News. 4.55 News. 5.00 News. 5.05 News. 5.10 News. 5.15 News. 5.20 News. 5.25 News. 5.30 News. 5.35 News. 5.40 News. 5.45 News. 5.50 News. 5.55 News. 6.00 News. 6.05 News. 6.10 News. 6.15 News. 6.20 News. 6.25 News. 6.30 News. 6.35 News. 6.40 News. 6.45 News. 6.50 News. 6.55 News. 7.00 News. 7.05 News. 7.10 News. 7.15 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Council of three replaces ousted Iranian President

From Tony Alloway, Tehran, June 22

The political destruction of Iran's fugitive President was completed today when Ayatollah Khomeini, the revolutionary leader, formally dismissed him from office.

Power was thus automatically transferred to a presidential council, whose members are the head of the Supreme Court, Hojatoleslam Hashemi Rafsanjani, the Speaker, and Mr. Muhammad Ali Rajai, the Prime Minister.

For these three men especially, the ayatollah's inevitable decision marked the victorious climax to a long and bitterly fought political struggle with Mr. Abolhasan Bani-Sadr that began before his election to the presidency 17 months ago.

Among the first tasks of the council will be to sign into law three important bills that the former President had stubbornly refused to pass. Two of them reduce the power of a president over key appointments, and the third closes a loophole in the constitution over the time in which such bills should be signed by the President.

The council is also required to arrange for new presidential elections within 90 days. Ayatollah Khomeini has flatly denied accusations that he was against Rafsanjani would be used as an excuse not to do so.

It is certain that the fundamentalists will make sure that future presidential candidates are prepared to conform to their vision of both the nature of the Islamic republic and the purely ceremonial role of the post.

The constitution allows Ayatollah Khomeini to vet all candidates before the election and it has been made clear that potential Bani-Sadr will be plucked from the race.

In the turmoil of the President's dismissal, little thought has so far been given to names of new candidates. One interest-

ing question will be whether Ayatollah Khomeini drops his previous restrictions of clergy-men standing for the post.

The former President, who went into hiding last Tuesday, had still not been found today despite the nationwide manhunt ordered last night.

Speaking this morning to a group which significantly included the second set of Air Force personnel to see him during the present crisis, Ayatollah Khomeini derided his former close aide, although he made no mention of the dismissal.

"Those people who told you to be brave and stand up to the Islamic republic were not brave themselves and didn't have the courage to stand up and they are running away," he said.

Young Iranians were urged not to join the "deviated" underground leftist groups that are now fighting the revolutionary regime: "Parents should not let their children be sacrificed for the selfish motives of a few," he said.

It was announced today that eight more members of underground leftist groups had been executed in Tehran last night in retaliation for Saturday's violence in the capital. Fifteen were executed earlier the same day. Most of them had been involved in the violence, according to the state radio.

However, Saeed Soltanpour, a well-known playwright and author, said to have been the leader of a breakaway faction of the Mojahedin Khatoli guerrillas, was known to have been arrested some days before the violence.

Mr. Ali Asghar Amirani, the former managing editor of the magazine *Khavar*, was executed today on charges of being a member of the former Savak secret police and having contacts with Israel.

Prince dives twice to see Tudor warship

From Our Correspondent Portsmouth

The Prince of Wales made two dives to the wreck of the Tudor warship *Mary Rose* in the Solent off Southsea, yesterday.

It was the fourth time the Prince, who is president of the *Mary Rose* Trust, had dived to examine the wreck which it is hoped to raise next year.

Putting on a black wet-suit and yellow aquanauts, the Prince made his first dive with Mrs. Margaret Rule, archaeological director of the trust. In 25 minutes, the Prince dived to the bows of the ship and made his way along to the stern, emerging through the rudder area into the stercorale. He then felt his way along the upper deck, back to the bows.

On his second dive, the Prince watched divers and archaeologists at work recovering Tudor artefacts from the wreck.

The Prince said: "It went very well, and I enjoyed it very much. It was great fun to see the progress that has been made. They have done a lot more work since I was here last in August last year."

Earlier in the day, the Prince saw round the Portsmouth headquarters of the trust, where many of the thousands of artefacts already recovered are stored, including cannons, bows and arrows, a Tudor medical kit, and a musical instrument known as a shawm.

The American millionaire, Dr. Arnold Hammer, chairman of Occidental Petroleum, promised yesterday to give 100,000 United States dollars to the trust provided nine donations of the same amount are also offered.

Wedding presents for the Prince and Lady Diana Spencer are to go on show to the public a week after the marriage ceremony, Buckingham Palace announced yesterday. The exhibition will be open at St James's Palace from August 5 to October 4 (the Press Association reports).

The exhibition will be open from 10 am to 7 pm on Mondays to Saturdays and from noon to 6 pm on Sundays. Admission will be £1.50 for adults, 80p for children under 15, and 70p for pensioners. Proceeds will be given to a charity chosen by the Prince.

Anxiety had been aroused by the absence of official information since the Pope unexpectedly returned on Saturday to the Gemelli Hospital in Rome, where he had an operation after the attempt on his life on May 13.

On Saturday morning, before the Pope's return to hospital, he was officially stated that he was suffering from persistent fever and that his doctors had advised tests in hospital.

Father Romeo Panciroli, the Vatican spokesman, said this afternoon that the Pope, who during the past week presented signs of pleuro-pneumonia inflammation on the right side, is in a phase of improvement.

Hospital tests showed that the lung infection was regressing and the temperature was tending to go down.

"Further tests are under way at the end of which a medical bulletin will be issued by the team of doctors," Father Panciroli said.

He added that other reports on the Pope's health were neither authorized nor reliable.

According to these unofficial reports, further blood and urine tests were taken today. This morning, the Pope had a temperature of 37.8° centigrade (nearly 100.4°F).

He was stated to have been unable to celebrate Mass yesterday evening.



A satellite picture showing the British Isles completely free of cloud yesterday except over parts of Scotland. The fine weather is expected to last until later today.

The Pope's lung condition improving

From John Earle, Rome, June 22

The Vatican today broke two days of silence on the Pope's condition announcing that the Pontiff was suffering from an inflammation of the right lung but that his condition was improving.

Anxiety had been aroused by the absence of official information since the Pope unexpectedly returned on Saturday to the Gemelli Hospital in Rome, where he had an operation after the attempt on his life on May 13.

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Ambulancemen defy unions by strike call

By Donald Macintyre, Labour Reporter

Shop stewards representing London's 2,300 ambulancemen decided yesterday to defy their union leaders again by calling a 24-hour all-out strike instead of joining an official ban on work other than emergencies.

The move came as police had to provide emergency cover for the fifth time in Scotland when ambulancemen in several towns and cities, including Glasgow, Paisley and Ayre, walked out in protest over the Government's pay offer of 8 per cent or 7.5 per cent over 15 months.

The four unions involved in the dispute yesterday called a second day of national industrial action from 8 am on Friday, but made it clear that they wanted ambulancemen to handle emergency calls.

Industrial action to improve upon the Government that their offer is totally unacceptable.

He added that if authorities refused to pay members who had worked other than emergency calls, as more than 10 in England and Wales decided last Wednesday's industrial action affected 44 of the country's 55 employing authorities.

Mr. Robert Jones, national officer of the National Union of Public Employees, the majority union in the dispute, said: "There is a need to continue industrial action to improve upon the Government that their offer is totally unacceptable."

He added that if authorities refused to pay members who had worked other than emergency calls, as more than 10 in England and Wales decided last Wednesday's industrial action affected 44 of the country's 55 employing authorities.

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union's insistence that emergency cover should be maintained.

The official appeal is almost certain to be brushed aside in London after what senior conveners in the capital said had been an overwhelming ballot vote in favour of a second 24-hour all-out strike "at any time from today".

The estimated average pay of qualified ambulancemen, the biggest single group, is £132.28 a week assuming overtime of about six hours, shift and bonus payments but excluding London allowances.

A police constable after four years service receives £120 for a 40-hour week. That excludes five hours of rent allowance, which in the case of a married man is estimated to be worth about £16 a week, although considerably less for single men.

Overtime varies substantially between and within authorities but it was estimated 12 months ago to average about four hours a week, which would add between £16 and £17. Overtime in the police force may have declined since that estimate was made.

In the case of firemen the consolidated basic rate for a qualified man is now £126 per week. Average earnings are estimated to be about £135 per week. The firemen's basic working week is 42 hours. Overtime is estimated to average two hours per week.

Mr. Robert Jones, national officer of the National Union of Public Employees, the majority union in the dispute, said: "There is a need to continue industrial action to improve upon the Government that their offer is totally unacceptable."

He added that if authorities refused to pay members who had worked other than emergency calls, as more than 10 in England and Wales decided last Wednesday's industrial action affected 44 of the country's 55 employing authorities.

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Walker monetarism attack

Continued from page 1

In any event, he expected to be sent an advance copy of the speech. One source close to the Prime Minister said that she was already "case-hardened" to the arguments that Mr. Walker regularly puts forward and that on the occasion the Minister had been heavy on analysis, and not too specific on remedies.

In case Mr. Walker and others have misread the signs, it was emphasized that Mrs. Thatcher is not dogmatic. There was also a feeling that Mr. Walker might have used one of his speaking engagements in the United States to defend the Government's policy in Northern Ireland which is now subject to so much misrepresentation there.

From some of the comments being made in Government circles last night it seemed probable that Mr. Walker will be in some trouble with Mrs. Thatcher when he returns home.

Yesterday, calling for "same and pragmatic decision-making", Mr. Walker called in aid the words of Mr. Harold Macmillan, former Prime Minister, when he gave advice on how to tackle the divisiveness and the dangers of the 1930s.

"Let us make human liberty the first objective of our plans," Mr. Macmillan had said. "This means that instead of working downwards from the realms of abstract theory we shall work upwards from the simple needs of mankind to the complicated economic and social organisation necessary to supply those needs."

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